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Jordan's King Hussein welcomes Foreign Minister David Levy at the Royal Palace in Amman yesterday. (AP)

Levy gets frosty reception in Jordan

DAVID MAKOVSKY
AMMAN

JORDAN'S King Hussein warned visiting Foreign Minister David Levy yesterday that the Netanyahu government should not announce a flurry of settlement expansion once a Hebron deal is done to compensate the right wing of the coalition.

During a visit that was a low-profile affair due to the troubled peace process, bereft of the open warmth that characterized previous visits of top Israeli officials to

the Jordanian capital, Levy held separate meetings with the monarch, Crown Prince Hassan and Prime Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti.

At a press conference alongside Levy at the king's Basman Palace complex in Amman, Jordanian Information Minister Marwan Muasher made clear that Jordan has decided to underscore the settlements issue to illustrate its

(Continued on Page 18)

Levine unhurt, Amitai slightly injured in attack on SLA post

DAVID RUDGE

OC Northern Command Maj-Gen. Amiram Levine escaped unhurt from a Hizbullah mortar attack on a South Lebanese Army position he was visiting in the security zone yesterday.

Brig-Gen. Eli Amitai, head of the IDF's Lebanese Liaison Unit, who was accompanying Levine, was very lightly hurt in the attack — the second time he has been wounded in less than a week.

Amitai was lightly injured last Saturday when Hizbullah gunmen ambushed the convoy in which he was traveling on the Ishiyeh-Rehan road. Two of the ambassadors were killed in the ensuing clash.

Military sources said yesterday that the IDF was investigating whether the two incidents involving Amitai were pure coincidence, or whether Hizbullah was receiving

(Continued on Page 18)

Bar-Illan: We may be able to accept a limited Palestinian state

DAVID MAKOVSKY

A PALESTINIAN state with strictly defined, limited sovereignty — including demilitarization — is something Israel may be able to accept, especially since partition already exists today and the notion of "Greater Israel" is no longer possible, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's senior policy adviser, David Bar-Illan, says in a wide-ranging interview with *The Jerusalem Post* today. (See Page 7).

Bar-Illan, who is often described as the leading ideological aide to Netanyahu, shows surprising flexibility in dealing with the Palestinians.

"I think partition is a fact. The question now is really what sort of partition," Bar-Illan said.

On the notion of Palestinian statehood, Bar-Illan said, "I think that when the Labor Party talked about the state, they said that they wanted it to be demilitarized; but if it isn't, well there is nothing much we can do about it. While Netanyahu is making it a condition for the existence of an entity — whether you call it a state or not is not really the important thing. The condition is that it cannot have unlimited sovereignty."

He said that in some ways, a Palestinian state already exists. "In many ways, it is a state. [Ariel] Sharon keeps saying they really have a state already. In many ways, it is much more of a state than it was envisioned in the Oslo agreement, as you know."

He said if the Palestinians do declare statehood at some point in the future, he is convinced the "whole world will recognize it."

On the issue of Netanyahu's ideology, Bar-Illan said, "I think in general he is no longer [in favor of] a whole-land-of-Israel movement. I don't think he feels that there is any chance of the Land of Israel remaining completely under the exclusive rule of Israel."

Among his points, Bar-Illan:

- agrees with the view that there is no great difference today between the Likud and Labor, due to the Likud's adherence to Oslo. At the same time, he blasts the Labor government for not forcing Arafat to stick to limits which, if unchecked, would lead to a militarized Palestinian state.
- makes clear that if Israel is not

absolutely vigilant about setting limits for Yasser Arafat, he is convinced the Palestinian leader would declare a holy war on Israel. At the same time, he terms Arafat's current regime a "police state" and says Israel cannot keep "lying" about this, but must press the case of Palestinian violations of Oslo — regardless of its impact upon US congressional funding of the Palestinian Authority.

• says the notion of Jewish control over the whole Land of Israel suffered a decisive blow as far back as the 1920s, when socialism prevailed as the dominant ethos in the country, making the ethos less attractive a place for immigrants.

• believes, despite remarks made a few months ago to the contrary, that Israel cannot take away Palestinian weaponry. However, he maintains hope that the Palestinians themselves will disarm militarily.

• insists settlement expansion can occur without adding "another square inch" to any settlements. This way, the Palestinians do not have to worry that Israel is seeking to preclude the negotiations on the final disposition of the territories.

Barred Bard: Shakespeare misses spot on Euro notes because of antisemitism

TOM GROSS

THE Bard is barred.

William Shakespeare does not appear on new European Union banknotes because of what some call antisemitism in one of his plays, according to Guido Crapanzano, a member of the committee that decided on the design of the notes.

Crapanzano, an Italian banker, told the Italian newspaper *Corriere della Sera* that Shakespeare's portrayal of Shylock in *The Merchant of Venice* was a key reason for the

committee's decision. He also said it had been decided that Mozart would not feature on the notes because of possible "objections to his Masonic music."

Experts leapt to Shakespeare's defense.

"This reasoning is totally ridiculous," said Zvi Jagendorf, of the English and Theater departments at Hebrew University. "Unlike, say, Wagner, whose anti-Jewish opinions were an important feature of his philosophy,"

(Continued on Page 18)

Sheves denies bribery allegations

GALIT LIPKIS BECK

"I have never been engaged in the energy field, neither in my former position as director-general of the Prime Minister's Office nor at any other time," Shimon Sheves said yesterday.

Sheves was responding to reports that the Securities Authority is probing allegations that starting in 1994, while serving as former head of the Prime Minister's Office for Yitzhak Rabin, he received benefits from publicly traded companies in turn for helping them win concessions in the energy field.

Full report, Page 13

Dow posts second-biggest gain ever

NEW YORK (Reuters) — Blue-chip stocks soared yesterday on the back of a powerful rally in the bond market, spurring the Dow Jones industrial average to its second-biggest one-day gain ever. The Dow was up 126.37 points or 2 percent, at 6,473.64, its second-steepest rise since the blue-chip index soared 184.86 on October 21, 1987.

Full Story, Page 14

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'Concerned' US sending Ross to check on Hebron talks

HILLEL KUTTNER
WASHINGTON

STATING that he and President Bill Clinton are "concerned about the recent drift" in the peace process, Secretary of State Warren Christopher announced yesterday he is dispatching special Middle East coordinator Dennis Ross to the region this weekend to get an "up-to-date assessment" of the Hebron talks.

At the same time, he left no doubt that the US would be making a further push to bring the talks to a conclusion.

Christopher said the US believes "it is time for a Hebron agreement to be reached, and for the parties to pursue the remaining issues in the negotiations there without further delay."

"I still have confidence in the peace process. I believe that an agreement can be reached on Hebron, should be, that will give [the process] a forward momentum," Christopher told journalists



US Secretary of State Warren Christopher. (Brian Headler)

at an end-of-the-year briefing.

Ross will stay in the region only a few days, and is due home by Christmas, Christopher said.

Ross spent three weeks in Israel in October, when Israel, the PA and the US said they were putting

the Hebron redeployment talks on the fast track, following September's violence between IDF soldiers and Palestinian policemen.

Ambassador to Israel Martin Indyk and Jerusalem Consul General Edward Abington have since been the primary American officials meeting with the parties on the issue.

Christopher indicated that the ball is in the PA's court, and called on Chairman Yasser Arafat to close the deal.

He said that while Israel has taken steps, "it's time for the Palestinians, Chairman Arafat to respond to those moves, to reciprocate those moves."

He also "strongly" urged Arafat and the PA "to take every action that they can to ensure that there is no occurrence of violence."

Christopher also said he sees "no basis" for any change in US policy toward Iran, which he said "remains a dangerous force" in the world.

Israel will demand extradition of PFLP killers, says Hanegbi

EVELYN GORDON

ISRAEL will formally request the extradition of the suspected murderers of Etra and Ephraim Tzur last week, Justice Minister Tzahi Hanegbi told the cabinet yesterday.

If it does, this will be the first formal extradition request the Netanyahu government has submitted since taking office. While three other requests have been prepared and are currently sitting on Hanegbi's desk, they have not yet been submitted, because the Oslo Accords state that such requests can only be formally submitted at meetings of the joint Israeli-Palestinian legal committee. There have been no such meetings since the new government took power.

Another three requests are in the final stages of preparation, according to ministry sources. The Palestinian Authority has ignored 15 of the 17 requests submitted by the previous government and rejected two others.

"I hope that this time the PA will deviate from its usual custom and understand that it is obligated to honor such a significant clause in the agreement between us," Hanegbi said.

The presumed killers, Nasser Qaysi and Ibrahim Kam, were tried and sentenced to life on Wednesday by the PA, and their driver, Ibrahim Hani, was sentenced to 15 years. According to the PA, this is legal grounds for delaying their extradition, according to the Oslo Accords.

The Rabin and Peres governments accepted the PA's interpretation on this point, over the

objections of Attorney-General Michael Ben-Yair and then justice minister David Liba'i. The Netanyahu government, however, has adopted Ben-Yair's position on the subject, which was prepared after the PA conducted a lightning trial of the suspects in the murder of Uri Shohor and Oshad Bachrach last year.

Ben-Yair's argument is based on Section 1 of the legal appendix to the agreement, which states that the PA has criminal jurisdiction only over crimes committed within their territorial jurisdiction. Since the Tzurs, like Bachrach and Shohor, were killed in an area controlled by Israel, the PA had no authority to try their murderers in the first place, and the entire trial and sentence are therefore null and void, Ben-Yair said.

PFLP protests sentences in Beit El killings

JON IMMANUEL

THE heavy sentences of the three convicted drive-by killers of Etra and Ephraim Tzur aroused anger in Ramallah yesterday as 500 demonstrators, mostly from the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, protested in the street.

The protest also included some Hamas and Fatah supporters. There were calls to "drop the olive branch and pick up the rifle." Some also said the Palestinian police were agents of the Israeli security services.

The two convicted of shooting the Tzurs were sentenced to life in prison with hard labor, and their driver was sentenced to 15 years.

Local PFLP leaders said they doubted that justice could have been done in a two-hour trial of

their members and compared it unfavorably with Yigal Amir's trial - for assassinating Yitzhak Rabin, which took several months.

Preventive Security Chief Jibril Rajoub, who spoke with PFLP leaders in his Jericho office yesterday, justified the short, secret trial in Jericho Wednesday night on the grounds that the three had confessed and police had found the murder weapons.

He said the sentences were justified because the attack was "a big strategic mistake." He repeated there would be no extradition to Israel.

In Jericho, Hamas held an indoor meeting similar to one at a Ramallah theater earlier this week with pictures emblazoned on the walls of Yihya Ayyash, known as "the Engineer" for his bomb-making skills. Ayyash was killed by a bomb last January 4. A leaflet by Izzadin Kassam, Hamas's armed brigade, has warned of an attack to mark the anniversary.

B'Tselem: Three more Hebron women strip-searched

JON IMMANUEL

POLICE in Hebron strip-searched three more women, only days after a human-rights group released a report condemning the practice in the city, the B'Tselem group said yesterday.

The day B'Tselem released its report on 15 cases of the strip-searching of women in Hebron during the past month, police searched another home and strip-searched three women in front of their four young children.

The women, aged 17 to 49, and the children were compelled by four policewomen to undress in one another's presence Tuesday night, field worker Mazen

Dandis said. In one case, a woman with a bandaged hand was forced to remove the bandage.

In each case, the police were searching for weapons or ammunition. The strip searches were apparently ordered after one woman, during a raid, was found to be hiding a pistol in her bra.

The latest case involved the family of Ahmed Baradi in Hebron's Kassara area near Kiryat Arba. Police have denied one charge of strip-searching and ignored others. They refer complainants to the Justice Ministry police investigations department.

Ideological Front seeks permit to stage protest against Oslo Accords at Rabin's grave

HERB KEINON

ITAMAR Ben-Gvir, an activist in the Ideological Front, the successor organization to Kach, requested a permit from the Jerusalem police yesterday to demonstrate against the Oslo Accords in front of Yitzhak Rabin's grave on Mt. Herzl next week.

The request comes a day after OC Central Command Maj.-Gen. Uzi Dayan granted permission to the group called An Entire Generation Seeks Peace to demonstrate at Baruch Goldstein's grave in Kiryat Arba next week. The organization is headed by Rabin's son, Yuval.

Jerusalem police spokesman Shmuel Ben-Ruby said that the police "received the request, and are considering it." Dayan's permission for the protest came after the group started to the High Court of Justice after its original request to protest at the site about a month ago was turned down. The court ordered the two sides to come to an agreement, and Dayan then gave his approval. The demonstration - to protest that Goldstein's grave has turned into a memorial of sorts - is scheduled for next Friday.

Former Kach leader Baruch Marzel said that the Ideological Front will also petition the High Court if its request is turned down. "Dayan has now given legitimacy to protesting in front of graves," Marzel said.

"We have been waiting for the opportunity, without identifying with the assassination, of showing our decision for the attempt to turn into a national hero a man who in our eyes was the worst prime minister in Israel's history," Marzel said. "We have been waiting for the opportunity to demonstrate against Oslo and against the man [Rabin]. Now we have the opportunity."

Marzel said that if An Entire Generation Seeks Peace goes ahead with its demonstration in Kiryat Arba, they will "receive a reception similar to one that Kach would receive if it marched in Umm el-Fahm."

Mubarak: Palestinians key to Syrian peace

ELDAD BECK

EGYPTIAN President Hosni Mubarak said yesterday, nobody can persuade Syria to renew peace talks, since President Hafez Assad has lost all confidence in Israel.

In an interview with the French weekly L'Express, Mubarak said the Syrians are waiting to see if Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu honors commitments to the Palestinians, before they agree to return to peace talks. "The Palestinians are the key to peace with Syria. If the Palestinian affair is resolved, I tell you everything in the Middle East will be resolved," Mubarak said.

Mubarak accused Netanyahu of violating treaties signed by his predecessors and approved by the Knesset. "Since long ago we know that the Jews keep to their promises. What, then, is happening with this prime minister? If he goes on that way, there will be no more understanding nor stability in the region," said Mubarak.

IDF, Palestinians resume joint patrol in Nablus

THE IDF and the Palestinian Authority resumed joint military patrols in Nablus yesterday, the fifth city to resume these patrols since they were halted following September's bloody clashes in the territories.

Despite the resumption of the joint patrols, the IDF said Nablus still remains a closed military area.

Arish O'Sullivan

Winning cards and numbers

In yesterday's daily Chance drawing, the winning cards were the seven of spades, the nine of hearts, the king of diamonds and the king of clubs.

In last night's weekly Paysis Hazak drawing, the holder of ticket number 125792 won NIS 1 million, while ticket 510425 was good for a new car.

Those holding tickets ending in 017066, 304629, 154260, 490410,

138354, 294552, 764761, and 892886 all won NIS 5,000. Tickets ending in 81543, 27386, 78359, 18319, 22998, 07343, 56134, 37542, 47422, 71546, 38993, 94896, 16732, 89083, 01658, 74655 and 79656, 47249, and 99127 all were good for NIS 1,000. Those ending in 667, 505, 533 and 303 were good for NIS 100, in 49, 81, 85, or 74 NIS 30, in 56 or 41 NIS 20, and in 2 or 6 NIS 10.

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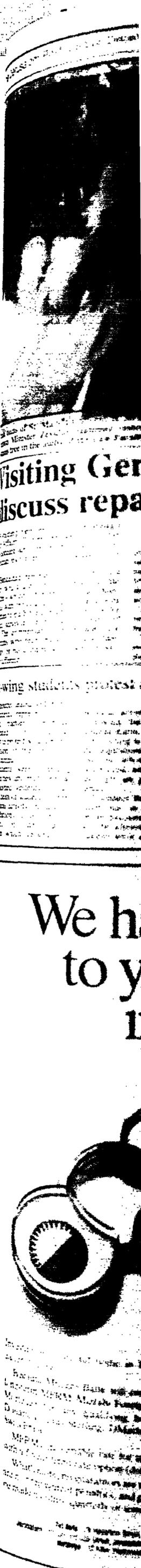
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German nuns of St. Mary's Convent in Jerusalem prepare to take home a JNF-donated Christmas tree yesterday. Meanwhile, Education Minister Zevulun Hanamer yesterday wrote the president of the Hebrew University condemning the placing of a Christmas tree in the lobby of the Law Faculty on Mt. Scopus. (Ariel Jozzowiznik)

Visiting German parliamentarians discuss reparations with survivors

SEVEN visiting members of the Bundestag's Interior Affairs Committee yesterday met with Holocaust survivors in Jerusalem to discuss reparations for tens of thousands of victims.

The Bundestag representatives later said that they would use their influence in the committee - which is the parliamentary body that deals with Holocaust affairs - and with their parties to push for compensation for the numerous survivors from various parts of Europe. The compensation is intended for Nazi victims who received a one-time payment only, or no compensation whatsoever, for their suffering.

BATSHEVA TSUR

Last March, Claims Conference representatives began talks with the German authorities on paying reparations to those tens of thousands of survivors who had fallen between the cracks. But in July, the German government decided to break off the talks, saying they would resume only in 1999.

The claims amount to some DM 300 million per year. The Bonn government said that the budget for this could not be found.

"The claims are for survivors aged 70 and over whose mental and physical health is very poor," Noah Flug, director of the Center of

Holocaust Survivors' Organizations said yesterday. "If the compensation is paid only in 1999, there will not be many survivors to receive it."

Flug said that the budget could come from the original reparations allocations since reparations were currently being paid to 118,000 survivors as compared with 300,000 20 years ago.

The Bundestag delegation said that the encounter with the survivors yesterday in Jerusalem was "extremely moving" and that some of the survivors would be invited to present their claims to the parliamentary committee in Bonn.

Left-wing students protest alleged political repression at Bar-Ilan University

THEIR mouths sealed with Band-Aids, students representing the left-wing parties yesterday demonstrated at Bar-Ilan University to protest what they say is repression of their political views on campus.

The students were protesting against the new university regulations, published yesterday, which allow the dean of students to prevent political activity on campus. The regulations follow recommendations of the Barish Committee which looked into

political activity on the campus following the assassination of Yitzhak Rabin.

According to the demonstrators, the regulations will continue to prevent left-wing views from being aired, while the students on the right are permitted to speak freely.

"I suspect that things will continue just as before. The day before elections, a NRP candidate will be allowed to speak on the campus while all the other parties

are muffled," Noam, an activist of the moderate religious movement Meimad, said.

"What kind of pluralism is this, if we are not allowed to air our views?" Oren, a Meretz activist asked. "The way to prevent political violence is to allow people to argue on the campus laws." Bar-Ilan spokesman David Weinberg said in response that no new regulations regarding political activity had been issued, and that, prior to the protest, the students had been

reprimanded by the academic secretary for "polluting" the campus with stickers and brochures. He said they had placed stickers on TV screens and furniture and that sanitation crews and security officers had to clean up the mess.

"There are 15 bulletin boards for notices all over the campus," Weinberg said. "They can be used by political parties, by people looking for matchmaking, selling cars, or by gays." "That is the place for them to put their stickers."

Coalition close to compromise on budget

EVELYN GORDON

THE child allowance cuts in the 1997 budget proposal will be replaced by not updating national insurance allowances or tax credits for inflation in 1997, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Finance Minister Dan Meridor agreed yesterday with coalition members of the Knesset Finance Committee.

The ministers also agreed that payments for doctors' visits and a 25 percent hike in co-payments for medicines will be dropped from the budget proposal, though what will replace these items has not been definitely settled. Both Finance Committee Chairman Abraham Ravitz (United Torah Judaism) and head of the coalition in the committee Silvan Shalom (Likud) said one measure which seems likely is an increase in cigarette taxes, while another is increasing the income ceiling on which the national health tax is levied from four to five times the average wage.

Since child allowances and the health payments were the three most problematic items in the budget to coalition MKs, yesterday's agreement makes it very likely that the budget will now pass. The one outstanding problem is Geshet, which has additional demands such as increased housing assistance for young couples. Geshet met with Treasury officials last night, but faction chairman Maxim Levy said

no agreement was reached.

The cuts in child allowances were expected to save NIS 850 million next year. According to Ravitz, the savings from not updating allowances and tax credits will be "more or less the same."

The payments for doctors' visits were expected to raise NIS 270m., while the hike in co-payments for medicines was slated to bring in NIS 150m. Raising the income ceiling for the health tax would bring in NIS 100m., and a half-shekel increase in the cigarette tax would raise some NIS 200m., so NIS 120m. is still outstanding.

The Treasury is to supply a detailed proposal by Sunday, when the committee is slated to vote on the Economic Arrangements Law of which all these measures are part.

One issue which remained unresolved at the end of the almost four-hour meeting was the proposed cut in investment grants under the Capital Investment Encouragement Law.

The Treasury wants to cut the maximum grant size from 30% to 20%. Unlike the child allowances and the health payments, which had met with wall-to-wall opposition in the committee, most coalition MKs in the committee are willing to accept this. However, Ravitz said, Pim Badash (Likud)

and Zvi Hendel (National Religious Party) are still objecting, and the coalition needs at least one of them to pass the proposal.

Ravitz suggested the law be changed to permit exceptions to the 20% limit in special cases approved by the Treasury and the Industry and Trade Ministry. The Treasury is considering the proposal, and will give the committee an answer on Sunday.

The committee is also still awaiting a Treasury proposal to cap school health fees for large families, which was its condition for approving the fees.

Meanwhile, the Treasury also met yesterday with members of the Knesset's religious caucus, to discuss their demands for an increase in the Religious Affairs Ministry budget. The Finance Committee rejected this budget as being inadequate earlier this week.

Yair Wolf, spokesman for Deputy Religious Affairs Minister Yigal Bibi, said nothing was settled, but progress was made - including the establishment of some joint committees to discuss the issues further - and an agreement sometime next week seemed likely. The biggest outstanding problem is the ministry's demand for NIS 100m. to compensate for erosion in the yeshiva budget over the past four years.

David Harris contributed to this report.

Negotiations resume between Haifa Chemicals management, workers

DAVID RUDGE

NEGOTIATIONS resumed between management and workers at the troubled Haifa Chemicals plant yesterday, although the atmosphere remained tense following the riots there earlier this week in which 12 people were hurt, eight of them employees.

The resumption of talks followed the Haifa regional labor court's rejection early yesterday of management's demand to oust strikers who have been staging a sit-in at the plant.

The court, however, ruled that the number of strikers inside should be reduced to 50 and instructed management to limit to 15 the number of security guards at the plant in the Haifa bayside industrial zone.

This followed the fighting on Monday night between guards hired by management to ensure the transport of ammonia from the factory's wharf to Haifa Chemicals' sister plant near Rotem, south of Beersheba, and

workers on picket line duty at the bayside complex.

The court also instructed management to ensure that the guards would not be armed with any weapons, including batons and brass knuckles, and instructed the two sides to resume talks.

In the meantime, a "siege demonstration" is to be held outside the Haifa Chemicals plant at Rotem on Sunday as part of a Histadrut campaign to paralyze the factory there. More than 300 of the 500 workers from the Haifa factory are to be taken to

the southern plant and will be joined there by scores of representatives from works committees in the southern region.

The workers are pressing for a new collective labor agreement. Management wants to annul the accord to cut costs, including the number of workers, to enable the company to compete profitably on overseas markets.

The Histadrut has presented alternative proposals which it maintains would save the firm around \$8 million a year. The plans have not yet been discussed in full between the two sides.

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Max Beckmann, The Way Home, black crayon on paper
73.3x48.8 cm. sold in December for £133,500

A hidden game

WHEN the British Mandate ended in late 1947, the country was split into two parts. The larger one remained in the hands of the majority, who declared a sovereign state; the Moslem minority fled across the border.

Endless conflicts brought about repeated wars between the Moslems and the new state. Those of the Moslem minority who didn't flee the country created an autonomous district and demanded annexation to the Moslem country across the border, on the grounds of shared religion, common language, and common customs. They have been waging bloody guerrilla warfare aimed at making their autonomous district part of the Moslem state.

The government hasn't managed to keep the peace, the roads aren't safe, government representatives get murdered and tourists kidnapped. Bombs wreak havoc. Army morale is eroding through civil war; the entire region lives in the shadow of armed uprising.

This is the story of India, Pakistan and Kashmir. Tomorrow it could be the story of Israel, Palestine, and the Galilee Arabs.

This is what the prime minister had in mind when he declared his opposition to full sovereignty for the Palestinians; his fear is that the Arabs who live in Galilee will make a similar demand.

It won't happen at the next stage — but it might at the one after that.

It wasn't fair of Netanyahu to accuse Israel's Arabs of being disloyal. In fact it is amazing just how loyal they have remained to Israel, despite the hardships and humiliations, and in spite of the temptation to join the struggle of the PLO.

With a few exceptions, Israel's Arabs haven't surrendered to nationalistic impulses, not even when they have been accused of cowardice and betrayal by nationalist movements in the Arab world and fundamentalist organizations.

YOSEF LAPID

The overwhelming majority of the Arab minority — numbering almost a million — aspires to peace, in the framework of an Israeli withdrawal from the territories and the establishment of a Palestinian state.

The loyalty of Israel's Arabs to the State of Israel isn't just a consequence of their essentially law-abiding nature. It also stems from their understanding that despite

The stage after next with the Palestinians is the one to beware

the (hidden and overt) limitations imposed upon them they are free here, in the democratic State of Israel, than any Arab living in any Arab country.

Furthermore, in spite of the discrepancy between the Arab and Jewish sectors as regards government and municipal services, Israel's Arabs have benefited from the country's economic growth, improving their financial situation immeasurably.

YET THIS does not suffice. The human heart yearns for more. Last week's conference for Israeli Arabs in Nazareth was a deeply-felt expression of the aspiration for a change of status for Israel's Arabs.

When Israeli Arabs voice the supposedly innocent slogan "Israel as a state of all of its citizens," they mean the de-Zionization of Israel. Witness their appeal to abrogate the Law of Return, which gives Jews an advantage over Arabs.

Israeli-Arab leaders have lately been talking about "cultural autonomy." Well, what's so bad about a minority claiming the right to cultivate its heritage?

In a speech delivered recently at a Tel Aviv University symposium, distinguished Arab-Israeli Professor Said Zaidani explained that the Israeli-Arab aspiration is for the kind of autonomy Quebec enjoys within Canada. That's just the point.

French-Catholic Quebec started out as a "cultural autonomy" separate from the English-speaking Protestant majority. It was this "cultural autonomy" that enabled the Quebec isolationists to develop an independent system of government, of education, of nearly everything.

The result is that Quebec is poised on the verge of breaking away from Canada. And this with no other place to annex itself to, France being way across the ocean and not, like the putative Palestinian state, only 15 minutes away.

When I voiced these sentiments on TV's *Popolitica* program they were vehemently rebutted by Hadash MK Azmi Bashara. And oughtn't he to know, being one of the most vocal promoters of Israeli Arab autonomy in "a state of all its citizens"?

The truth is that a hidden game is being played out here, a game of "I know that you know that I know."

And in this game lies the plan of stages, which puts a Palestinian state alongside a "Zionism-free" Israel.

The Arab minority in Galilee will first achieve cultural autonomy, then administrative autonomy, finally it will be annexed to the Palestinian state with which it identifies heart and soul.

Should the prime minister have sounded this fear in public? Maybe not.

But he would have been highly negligent had he not, in his long-term calculations, taken into account the possibility of a Palestinian state inspiring Israeli Arabs with the longing for a homeland where they are the lords and masters.

The author is an editorial writer for Ma'ariv.



Inspiring, but impractical

AMOTZ ASA-EL

AS if intoxicated by the Black Sea's sweet, non-European breeze, Odessa at the turn of the century produced such exceptional figures as Herzl's adversary Ahad-Ha'Am, Stalin's nemesis Leon Trotsky and Netanyahu's alter ego, the inspiring but impractical Vladimir Jabotinsky.

Like Netanyahu, Jabotinsky — who eventually led the Revisionist alternative to the moderate Zionism of Chaim Weizmann and David Ben-Gurion — was a well-read cosmopolitan, an unorthodox thinker and a secular nationalist.

Like Netanyahu, Jabotinsky routinely impressed audiences of every kind and persuasion with impassioned, well-crafted orations.

Netanyahu takes pride in his past as a commando captain; he dedicates Jabotinsky basked in his experience as a captain with the British army who, during World War I, led a platoon of soldiers across the Jordan into Ottoman Palestine.

Netanyahu has made the war on terror a major theme of his political campaigns; Jabotinsky did the same with his theory of *Eisenwand*, the iron wall of resolutely-held bayonets that would ultimately teach Arab nationalists the futility of violent struggle against Zionism.

Netanyahu is "Bibi," Jabotinsky was "Jabo." Like Jabo's, Bibi's staunchest supporters are abroad rather than here, and his well-taught, almost virtuosically assumed it as a given that the Jewish state was destined to be militarily mighty, economically superior and staunchly supported by a liberal, Western superpower.

Even at this early stage of Netanyahu's political career, one major difference already looms large between the two men: Jabotinsky's career was an ongoing but perennially-frustrated attempt to lead his people, while Netanyahu has made it to that promised land.

Yet after just half a year in office Netanyahu's record evokes the kind of criticism often leveled at Jabotinsky — that he is much better at talking than doing.

Scuffing at the piecemeal attitude of Weizmann and Ben-Gurion which, in the face of

British foot-dragging and Arab violence, hailed every Zionist purchase and introduction of "a dunam here and a goat there," Jabotinsky flourished alternative, grandiose programs for the wholesale construction of metropolises and the en-masse transfer of entire Jewish populations from Europe to Palestine.

The reality was that Jabotinsky's rash resignation from the Zionist Executive in 1925, his expulsion from Palestine by Britain in 1931 and his controversial establishment of an alternative Zionist

organization in 1935 detached him from the day-to-day management of the burgeoning Zionist enterprise.

The jury will therefore always be out on how pragmatic and creative a national leader he would have been.

TWO generations after his death and nearly two decades after his disciples first won a national election here, Israel's secular Right sports a lamentably poor record in governance.

The Camp David accords, that jewel in the Likud's historic record, were engineered for Menachem Begin by Ezer Weizman and Moshe Dayan, neither of whom was an organic party product, both of whom abandoned Begin shortly afterwards.

The settlement drive across the Green Line was mostly conceived, led and executed by Bnei Akiva's religious youth, while the Likud's assorted armchair patriots — from Moshe Arens and Yitzhak Shamir to Binjamin Netanyahu and Tzahi Hanegbi — cheered the settlers on from safe, comfortable homes in Tel Aviv and Jerusalem.

On the economic front, in 1977 the Likud launched a hastily-prepared currency reform which ultimately generated a disastrous hyperinflation crisis.

Eight years later most Likud

ministers — still staunch, unreconstructed populists — voted against the Peres-Moda'i austerity plan that ultimately straightened out the economy.

On the Palestinian front, a scornful Shamir, who turned inaction into something of a religion — aborted then-foreign minister Shimon Peres's Jordan-oriented peace effort while stubbornly denying the occupation's immorality and impracticality.

Less than a year later the intifada broke out, ultimately creating

had come to lead this country all but devoid of contingency plans.

Practically all his major election promises — to sell "lots" of JNF real estate "quickly," slash taxes "sharply," privatize companies "en masse," build rail-ways, establish a national security council, appoint a supreme economic forum and make ministers abandon their Knesset seats (via the Norwegian law) — have yet to be acted upon. Not to mention his much-heralded intention of making "excellence" the sole criterion for a cabinet seat.

Now, surrounded by "excellent" visionaries like Yehoshua Matza and Tzahi Hanegbi, a perplexed Netanyahu gazes at the ever-complicating realities staring at him from the drawing boards — those drawing boards he conceitedly shunned during four years as an opposition leader who sold his, and this country's, soul to electioneering.

Even those of us who didn't vote for him deserve better than this. But what about his own followers? Isn't it high time they found leaders who will part with the Jabotinsky-Begin-Shamir heritage of maximum talk and minimum action?

The writer is a member of The Jerusalem Post editorial staff. The views expressed are not necessarily those of the paper.

A government of exiles is what it looks like

ISRAEL suffers from a double crisis of leadership.

On the one hand Shimon Peres, leader of the opposition, thinks he is leading a government in exile. On the other hand, Prime Minister Netanyahu is widely perceived to be the head of a government of exiles.

The impression is that the prime minister isn't in charge because, in a manner difficult to define, he somehow doesn't quite belong. The insider-outsider cleavage adds an additional dimension to the intramural altercations that have marked Netanyahu's tenure in office.

Take the current dispute over responsibility for the Western Wall Tunnel fiasco.

On the face of it this appears to be a classic instance of conflict between the professionals and the politicians, part of the unending skirmishes every democratic regime has between the bureaucrats and the political echelon. Under Netanyahu, it becomes a test of legitimacy and credibility.

This is the first time in Israel's history that there seems to be some sort of Green Line between the Prime Minister's Office and the other organs of government. The Knesset is clearly out of bounds. Communications Minister Limor Livnat, a junior minister by any standard, answered the no-confidence motions on settlement policy this week on behalf of the government.

Netanyahu has problems answering not only to the Knesset, but to his own supporters as well. After all, the only concrete action of the government on the settlement issue was the decision not to expand settlements, but rather to grant some (but not all) settlements in the territories Area A development status, with all the fiscal benefits involved.

Under the previous Labor government this was the status granted development towns and agricultural communities near the nation's borders. These are precisely the sectors that during the

ALLAN E. SHAPIRO

last four years registered virtually zero growth.

Netanyahu's problem with the Knesset is not just on no-confidence motions.

A major function of any government is to initiate legislation to carry out its programs. This is a government that may be long on programs, but it is very short on

A kind of Green Line exists between the Prime Minister's Office and the other organs of government

legislative initiatives. There simply aren't any.

The public has been receptive to the notion of Netanyahu's "outsider" status since the crises that accompanied the formation of the new government. The factual basis has not been important.

Thus, a patently incredible story that Netanyahu's US social security file contained damaging evidence, with the hint that he had been an American secret agent, received an amazing degree of public attention.

MORE recently the front has shifted to Netanyahu's personal advisers, two of whom, Dore Gold and David Bar-Ilan, hold dual Israeli-American citizenship, as do most American immigrants.

The law requires ministers, members of Knesset and judges to renounce foreign citizenship. There is certainly a case for extending this to close prime ministerial advisers, as well as to others in particularly sensitive posts, in order to provide a visible guarantee of undivided loyalty.

However, the problem is distinctly political, not legal.

In an earlier period, there were cases in which American officials, negotiating with Israeli government agencies, expressed discomfiture at finding American citizens seated across the table from them, representing a foreign government.

It will be recalled that Henry Kissinger, as security adviser to President Nixon, was initially reluctant to deal with Middle East problems. Later, as secretary of state, he had no choice in the matter.

There were no significant problems on the American side because of Kissinger being Jewish. In Israel, however, he was heckled by Gush Emunim demonstrators with the cry of "Jew-boy."

Today Jews staff key positions on the American side in the peace process negotiations, American Jews, including US Ambassador Martin Indyk and special Middle East coordinator Dennis Ross, frequently sit on the opposite side of the table from American Israelis.

However, the public perception of a "government of exiles" is not entirely erroneous.

Exiles everywhere develop a distinctive political culture. They are removed from the ground, from the ongoing political reality. They tend to dogmatism and to extremism.

Netanyahu, Dore Gold and David Bar-Ilan, as well as many of Netanyahu's English-speaking supporters, show clear signs of the political culture of exiles. Neither Netanyahu's Reaganite neo-conservatism nor Gold's Kissingerian realpolitik translate readily into Israeli reality.

Bar-Ilan's most publicized venture, the attempt to prevent *New York Times* correspondent Tom Friedman from addressing the Anti-Defamation League, might fit the Bolshevik thought pattern associated with Israel's founding generation, but it was an "un-Israeli" as it was "un-American."

The writer is a legal and political commentator.

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A Red Cross worker carries bottles of water into the besieged Japanese ambassador's residence in Lima yesterday. Terrorists of the Tupac Amaru Revolutionary Movement staged a spectacular takeover of the residence Tuesday and are holding hundreds of hostages to negotiate the release of members of the movement jailed by President Alberto Fujimori's administration.

Lima hostage standoff continues

LIMA, Peru (AP) - Held in separate rooms by rebels armed with guns and grenades, a dozen ambassadors and hundreds of other dignitaries spent a third day of captivity in the home of Japan's ambassador yesterday.

A doctor who was allowed inside the compound yesterday in an upscale Lima suburb said the hostages appeared calm and healthy, despite the Tupac Amaru rebels' threat Wednesday to begin executing them one by one.

The US Embassy set up a special hostage crisis-center manned by FBI agents, and Washington dispatched security agents to advise the embassy on protecting the estimated 10,000 Americans in Peru against any broader guerrilla offensive.

On Tuesday night, rebels entered the compound posing as waiters carrying champagne and food during a birthday party honoring Japanese Emperor Akihito.

But there was still confusion yesterday on exactly how the rebels seized so many people that quickly and how they entered the compound.

Some Peruvian news media quoted police sources as saying guerrillas got in by blowing a hole in an inside wall of an adjoining house and scaling a different section of wall from a clinic parking lot.

Channel 2 showed a 1.5-meter-wide hole it said was used to enter the compound.

Police were still holding for investigation 14 of the 25 white-jacketed waiters freed by the guerrillas shortly after the takeover.

The rebels are demanding the release of 300 jailed comrades, economic reforms, money and safe passage to the Amazonian jungle in eastern Peru.

The Red Cross has gone in and out of the compound several times. Red Cross doctor Marc Cortal described the situation after a 30-minute visit as "very tranquil."

He helped deliver water, medicine and sandwiches to the block-long compound where the 23 rebels had divided more than 400 hostages into groups and guarded them in separate rooms.

The hostages in turn asked for toothbrushes and fresh clothes and expressed concerns about a lack of bathrooms and beds in the residence, which is pockmarked with bullet holes.

Canadian ambassador Anthony Vincent, who was among five hostages released from captivity Wednesday, also re-entered the residence before dawn yesterday with a Peruvian diplomat.

"We transmitted to the government the message of the Tupac Amaru Revolutionary Movement," he said when he emerged. He said he was not a negotiator and was merely passing messages between President Alberto Fujimori's government and the rebels.

The Canadian ambassador said he was inside the embassy residence just after midnight and spoke with "Comandante Huertas." It was dark, the hostages were sleeping and "the only sound I heard was of 400 men snoring."

The rebels said unless the government met their demands, they would begin executing their hostages, starting with Peru's foreign minister, Francisco Tudela.

But the deadline was midday Wednesday, and more than 24 hours later there was no sign anyone had been killed.

FBI counterspy arrested for selling secrets to Moscow

WASHINGTON (AP) - The FBI charged one of its agents with selling secrets to Moscow for more than \$224,000, arresting him after an undercover investigation aided by a former Russian official and inadvertently almost upset by the agent's wife.

With help from the former Russian official at the United Nations, FBI agents posing as Russian spies began a "false flag" operation in August 1995 aimed at incriminating Earl Edwin Pitts and learning the extent of treachery he might have been guilty of before he became "dormant" in 1992.

Days after the phony Russian agents contacted Pitts, his wife, Mary, then an FBI clerk, turned him in to bureau officials because she suspected he might be spying and she didn't know about the undercover effort. The FBI pretended to accept his explanations for his contact with the Russians and continued the secret operation against him.

Pitts, 43, a 13-year bureau veteran, is the second FBI agent ever charged with spying.

This is the third major Russian spy case since 1994, when CIA officer Aldrich Ames pleaded guilty to spying that has been blamed for the deaths of 10 Western agents. Former CIA station chief Harold Nicholson pleaded innocent last month to selling the identities of new CIA agents since 1994 for more than \$180,000.

Pitts was arrested Wednesday at the FBI Academy at Quantico, Virginia, where he worked as a supervisory agent.

But during 1987-89, he was in the FBI New York office assigned to hunt and recruit Soviet KGB officers, and during 1989-1992, he worked on top secret records and personnel security at FBI headquarters in Washington.

Last Friday, the FBI said, he told undercover agents he thought were from the Russian SVRR intelligence service that during 1987-92 "I have provided you with everything that I was aware of."

In the affidavit, FBI Agent David G. Lambert writes that the FBI believes Pitts turned over the "Soviet Administrative List," a secret computerized FBI compilation of all Soviet officials in the United States with their known or suspected posts in Soviet spy agencies.

Pitts also is believed to have told the Soviets about "an FBI asset who reported covertly on Russian intelligence matters," Lambert wrote.

FBI Director Louis J. Freeh told a news conference this man "is still alive." A law enforcement official, requesting anonymity, said the man was a Russian government official serving in the United States.

"Nothing was sacred to Pitts," US attorney Helen Fahey said. "He was willing to betray his country, his agency and his fellow agents."

No deaths resulted from Pitts' activities and no nuclear or satellite information was turned over, so he could face at most a life sentence rather than the death penalty if convicted, Fahey said.

At a court hearing in Alexandria, Virginia, Pitts was charged with attempted espionage and conspiracy to commit espionage. He also was charged with a lesser espionage count and with conveying government property, each of which carries a maximum 10-year penalty.

Marcello Mastroianni dies at 72

ROME (Reuters) - Actor Marcello Mastroianni, Italy's quintessential Latin Lover and the symbol of the Dolce Vita, died at his home in Paris yesterday, aged 72.

His Italian agent Giovanna Cas said Mastroianni passed away yesterday morning and gave no cause of death. Italian media said he had been suffering from cancer of the pancreas.

In some 160 films, starring alongside many of cinema's most beautiful women, Mastroianni became an enduring symbol of suave Latin sex appeal.

He had his first international success in 1960 in director Federico Fellini's *La Dolce Vita*, whose scene of a young Mastroianni splashing in the Trevi Fountain in Rome with Swedish blonde Anita Ekberg is one of cinema's indelible images.

The city of Rome said it would turn off the water at the fountain, douse the lights and drape the monument in black cloth at 5 p.m. local time as a mark of respect.

The actor went on to star in many of Fellini's other works, as recently as the late director's 1986 film *Ginger and Fred*, while never losing a reputation for modesty.

Mastroianni also was present, Cas said.

"Marcello was the sweetest, nicest, most light-hearted actor, a great friend who I will miss a lot," said actress Monica Vitti, who starred with Mastroianni in Michelangelo Antonioni's 1961 film *The Night and the Day*.

Italian director Mario Monicelli, who cast Mastroianni in his renowned film *I Soliti Ignoti* in 1958, described the actor as "devoid of celebrity affectations...and graciously ironic."

Italian radio, reporting from Paris, said Mastroianni had died at dawn and that friends, including many from the film world, went to his house in the French capital to pay respects.

The Italian news agency ANSA said his funeral would be held in Rome with a small private ceremony in Paris.

Apart from *La Dolce Vita*, Mastroianni perhaps will be best remembered for films in which he starred with Sophia Loren such as *Marriage Italian Style*, *The Priest's Wife*, *Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow*, *Sunflowers* and *A Special Day*.



Marcello Mastroianni seen in a file photo from 1993.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Mother Teresa goes home after heart op
CALCUTTA (Reuters) - A smiling Mother Teresa walked out of hospital yesterday, three weeks after her third heart operation in five years, and returned to her religious order, where nuns sang and danced.

The 86-year-old Roman Catholic nun walked unaided out of Calcutta's B.M. Birla Heart Research Center. Smiling with her hands clasped together in the traditional Indian greeting, she bowed to the crowd outside the hospital.

Sisters rang the chapel bell as Mother Teresa was carried up two steps into her Missionaries of Charity order. Nuns crowded around her, applauding, singing and dancing. "It is God's wish," said Sister Priscilla Lewis.

India's Rao steps down as Congress chief
NEW DELHI (Reuters) - Former Indian prime minister P.V. Narasimha Rao resigned yesterday from his last party post as chief of the Congress party's parliamentary bloc amid a flurry of corruption charges.

Rao, who spearheaded India's move away from socialist economic controls to open markets, led the country from 1991 until last May when the 111-year-old Congress suffered its worst defeat in a general election. He rose to power after the assassination of former prime minister Rajiv Gandhi in May 1991.

Czech PM's party may quit gov't over pensions
PRAGUE (Reuters) - Czech Prime Minister Vaclav Klaus said yesterday his ruling Civic Democratic Party would end the governing coalition if his partners backed opposition plans to lower the pension age and boost farm subsidies.

In a blistering statement aimed not only at the opposition Social Democrats, but also his party's centrist coalition partners, the Christian Democrats, Klaus warned of a potential collapse of Czech post-Communist reforms if the plans were adopted.

Pressure eases on Bundestag speaker

BONN (Reuters) - Germany's embattled parliamentary speaker Rita Suessmuth got preliminary backing yesterday from a probe into alleged misuse of official aircraft as Chancellor Helmut Kohl denied party leaders wanted to discredit her.

Deputy speaker Hans-Ulrich Klose of the opposition Social Democrats (SPD) issued a statement saying that "an initial review of Mrs Suessmuth's flight schedule has not provided indications of an inappropriate use of official aircraft."

The comment was the first piece of good news this week for Suessmuth, the "Mrs Clean" of German politics, who has been under pressure over allegations she regularly used official aircraft to visit her daughter in Zurich.

Although Suessmuth is a member of Kohl's Christian Democratic Union (CDU), she is not well-liked within the party because of her advocacy of women's issues and what many conservatives see as her moralizing stand on social questions.

Palace apologizes for Prince Philip - again

LONDON (Reuters) - Buckingham Palace yesterday said Prince Philip was sorry if he caused offence by criticizing government plans to ban most handguns in the wake of the Dunblane massacre, but it did not withdraw the comments.

Philip, 75, the blunt-spoken husband of Queen Elizabeth, triggered uproar by comparing guns to cricket bats and dismissing the public outcry after loner Thomas Hamilton killed 16 children in the Scottish town of Dunblane last March.

"Prince Philip had no intention whatsoever of causing offence or distress to anyone and he is sorry if he has done so," said a Buckingham Palace spokesman, making clear the prince stood by what he had told a BBC radio interviewer.

His comments capped a bad year for the royal family, whose already sullied reputation was further tarnished by Prince Charles's divorce from Princess Diana and the publication of sensational books on the private life of the Duchess of York.

In his interview Philip expressed sympathy for the relatives of the dead children and their teacher but said the public and government reaction had not been wholly rational.

"If a cricketer, for instance, suddenly decided to go into a school and batter a lot of people to death with a cricket bat, which he could do very easily, I mean are you going to ban cricket bats?" he said.

Shooters' groups and some Conservative members of parliament backed the Duke's comments, but the overwhelming response was one of disbelief and condemnation.

"How many people can you kill in three and a half minutes with a cricket bat? It is not the same as an automatic gun. You have to be realistic," said Beverley Birnie, whose six-year-old son Matthew survived the shootings at Dunblane.

"I despair of the Duke of Edinburgh. This man is insensitive, selfish and ham-fisted," said Tony Banks, member of parliament for the opposition Labor party.

"Once again he has wandered into a highly sensitive area. A prolonged period of silence on his part would be much appreciated," said Banks.

Members of the royal family are not supposed to dabble in politics and government ministers are unlikely to be impressed by his criticism of their planned legislation, which itself has been attacked for being too timid.

"Quite honestly, I don't see this sort of legislation preventing handguns getting into the hands of criminals. I mean, it didn't before and it's not going to do now," said Philip.

The Duke has a history of making controversial comments. During a visit to China in 1986 he described Peking as "ghastly" and told British students: "If you stay here much longer you'll all be slit-eyed."

In 1995 he asked a Scottish driving instructor: "How do you drive the natives off the booze long enough to pass the test?"

China's last imperial eunuch dies at 93

BEIJING (Reuters) - China's last imperial eunuch has died in Beijing at the age of 93 after a life that spanned the end of a dynasty and a communist revolution that made a mockery of his castration.

Sun Yaoting, who served for seven years in the court of China's last emperor, died on Tuesday evening at his home in a Beijing temple, his biographer Jia Yinghua said yesterday.

"He was the last eunuch in China," Jia said.

Sun, who was born on December 29, 1902 near the northern port city of Tianjin, had his genitals sliced away eight years later by a father eager to wield power and influence through a son in the court of China's Qing emperors, Jia said.

Months later revolution swept away the Qing dynasty that had ruled China for almost three centuries, signaling the end of a system of promotion by emasculation that had supplied Chinese emperors with servants and agents for thousands of years.

Sun's remains were laid out in traditional style at Beijing's Guanghua temple on Wednesday, with a gold cloth across his face, rings on his fingers and in a white silk shroud embroidered with imperial dragon and phoenix motifs, Jia said.

Sun had served China's Emperor Pu Yi during the final years of the last Qing ruler's residence in the Forbidden City after he was stripped of his imperial title in 1911.

He was appointed to administer Beijing's temples by the victorious communist revolutionaries after they swept to power in 1949, said Jia, author of *The Secrets of The Last Eunuch*.

"He was a man of rare intelligence," Jia said, adding that when Sun revisited the Forbidden City in 1993 after a 70-year absence he had been able to point out historical inaccuracies in displays arranged by curators at the former home of China's emperors.

The eunuch's post-revolution security was shattered in 1966 when late Chairman Mao Zedong triggered 10 years of social ferment by launching the ultra-leftist Cultural Revolution.

Sun became an early victim of the radicalism embodied by the Red Guards. Mao's youthful socialist stormtroopers, who roamed China attacking anything seen as tainted by the feudal past.

Sun was sent back to his home village and in the chaos lost his precious genitals, which had been carefully preserved using traditional methods after his emasculation.

"They were thrown away by his family," Jia said. "They were afraid of being implicated if the genitals were found by the Red Guards."

According to Buddhist beliefs, a eunuch had to be buried with his penis to ensure successful reincarnation as a man.

"He used to joke about it," Jia said. "He said: 'When I die I will come back as a cat or a dog.'"

Sun's adopted son and grandson would take his remains to his home village for further ceremonies on Friday before having them cremated in Beijing, Jia said.

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THE PUBLIC IS INVITED

News in Focus

The Jerusalem Post Friday, December 20, 1996

The prime minister's senior policy adviser says he does not oppose a limited Palestinian state

The 'Post's David Makovsky interviews David Bar-Illan Eye on the government

THE GOVERNMENT'S RECORD

How would you assess Prime Minister Netanyahu's performance?

I think that the prime minister has achieved some of what he intended to, though certainly not all. He has achieved more in terms of changing attitudes and priorities than in actual, concrete accomplishments. To change attitudes after four years of a very definite direction is not easy. So I think that in that respect, the [raising of] consciousness of security, both here and abroad, is one of his big achievements.

On the economic front, there's been a great deal of achievement, but unfortunately this has been obscured by other issues. There's been a drastic reduction in inflation from 15% for the year to about 9 or 10%. The pledge of the government now, and it seems much more realistic than it would have been six months ago, is to bring inflation to European, to Western standards within three or four years, which would be something we've never done in this country before. I think that the achievements of the government will be much more impressive once it passes the budget through the Knesset, which it will obviously have to do before the end of the year.

What about the government's mistakes? Obviously governments make mistakes. That is inevitable. I think new governments make more mistakes. Inexperienced governments make more mistakes. Our American counterparts often try to comfort me when I wring my hands over mistakes that our government makes by saying that it took the Clinton administration two years to get its act together. I don't think we can afford two years. I don't think Israel can afford two years and this government certainly can't afford two years. But I think that we have learned from many mistakes which were mostly those of novices, of inexperience, and that we will, I hope, get our act together before the two years are gone.

Could you give examples of lessons that you think have been learned? I think there's a tendency to play one's cards too close to one's chest. I feel that much greater openness is in order. For instance,

I don't consider the tunnel opening to have been a mistake intrinsically. I think it was a mistake in which lack of preparation of the public played a much larger role than the actual act.

Do you not regret not consulting with Arafat or the Jordanians in advance?

No. I think that consulting is not the right word here. I think that informing the Jordanians, who have this special status which we recognize in Jerusalem, would have been a much wiser way to handle it. And Arafat, too, perhaps should have been informed. I think that had we also publicized it and explained it [more] in advance, it would have probably been more difficult for Arafat to use it as a pretext for the riots, which is what he did.

WAR FEARS, RELATIONS WITH ARAB STATES

What do you say to people who say here was Netanyahu, just elected, but according to a Ma'ariv poll, only 38% of Israeli Jews now trust him, and to those who say there's going to be a war, either with the Syrians or sustained violence with the Palestinians?

Well there are several factors here. One is that within a week after this government came to power there was a big summit meeting of all the Arab states in which obviously a decision was taken to besiege it, to try its mettle, to conduct psychological warfare against it. It is not an easy thing to confront and that is perhaps what has caused the feeling of danger, threats, perhaps even the imminence of war. I don't believe that we are any closer to war than we were six months ago. And again, public perceptions may be affected by many things. I hate to blame the media, but having worked so hard to help give the victory to the Labor Party they now want to justify the original direction. I'm not saying that the media as such are responsible for the mood, and although I'm sure they are doing so in all innocence, they certainly play into this psychological warfare, partly also because it makes good headlines. But the fact is that there is a certain discernible and statistically proven double standard with which the media treat the present government as opposed to the previous one. And I imagine that that contributes also to this feeling of malaise or unease in the public.

Regarding psychological warfare, are you charging that there's a kind of conspiracy among the Arabs to feel that they

can squeeze Netanyahu and bring him down or somehow bring in a unity government? What is the aim of this psychological war?

I don't know if it's a question of bringing him down or forcing him to form a national unity government or just plain forcing him to not live up to his platform, forcing him to be what the previous government was, which the Arab states considered a more convenient government for them, rightly or wrongly.

They also expected the old government to win. They took it for granted that the Golan, for instance, was gone, that it was to be given up. They took it for granted that a Palestinian state would be established and while they might have had some doubts about how and where and when they would be able to get Jerusalem to become its capital, the rest was taken for granted and now suddenly it was taken away from them. They suddenly felt like children whose lollipop was taken away.

In general, I can't say that they've been unsuccessful, because the mood in the world has changed to a great extent, at least on the surface, and there's been much greater antagonism against Israel which didn't show its ugly face before. But the fact is that on a working level, we don't feel it, even with the Arab states.

Yet, a bunch of Arab states have announced that they are freezing ties with Israel. Tunisia announced just this week.

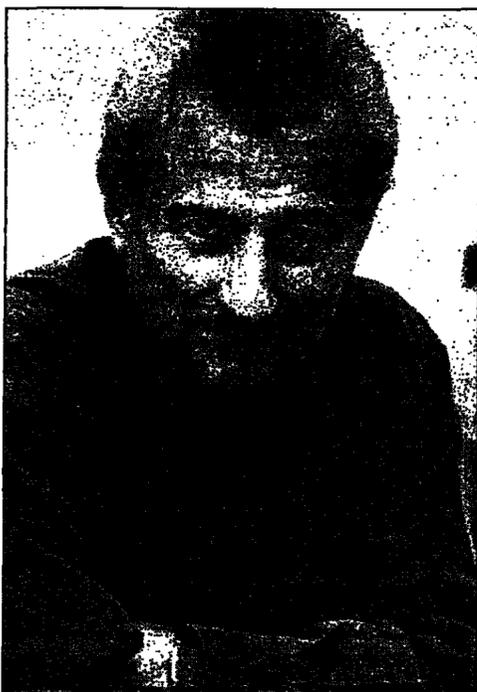
Yes, they're freezing ties, but at the same time they're signing a postal agreement with us. The words "freezing ties" mean absolutely nothing. The question is are they continuing the daily incremental steps which actually are what peace and normalization consist of. With Jordan, many projects from water to the planning of the airport near Eilat/Akaba and other projects are progressing in the right direction.

PRIVATIZATION

What has happened to Netanyahu's promises on privatization?

Privatization is slower than it was expected, but it is going forward.

Is there a plan? Yes, definitely. Bezeq, El Al are all going to go. It's just that these things are not as easy as Netanyahu expected them to be because it is much easier to privatize small companies overseas than large companies and sometimes it is more advisable to break them up first and then sell them. I mean there are all sorts of complications and I'm not sure that Netanyahu realized how complicated it might be.



Bar-Illan: Obviously governments make mistakes. That is inevitable. I think new governments make more mistakes. (Sara Usaty)

Labor Party was talking about limited sovereignty too.

I think that when the Labor Party talked about the state they said they wanted it to be demilitarized, but it isn't, well, there's nothing much we can do about it. While Netanyahu is making it a condition for the existence of an entity - whether you call it a state or not is not really the important thing. The condition is that it cannot have an army of a quarter of a million people, produce its own nonconventional [or] conventional weapons, make alliances with radical regimes like Iraq and Iran, control the airspace over Israel, etc.

Now, I presume that if you really ask most people they would say that they agree with this. They really don't want a Palestinian state with a quarter of a million people and two million refugees standing outside of Tel Aviv. By the way, it sounds perhaps even patronizing to say these things, I want a state, but I want it to be limited here and there. There is practically not a state today [with] unlimited sovereignty. Today, even the European states have surrendered some aspects of their sovereignty.

Some would say, that if you agree to these terms now, you grant them statehood, but then five years from now they'll want to change the terms.

Oh, absolutely, that's why the word statehood is not being mentioned. I say limited sovereignty, because it covers the whole gamut of things. Actually the main fault in this thinking is, and I'm giving you a devil's advocate point of view, is that all the limited sovereignties in the world today, and there are quite a few of them, are democracies, and when Austria, for instance, undertakes not to have an army, you know that as a democracy, you can trust what it says.

There are no police states to my knowledge that have a voluntary limitation on their sovereignty. There will have to be the kind of peace which in advance will have to grant Israel the kind of veto or control over certain things that

will make it safe for it to have a limited sovereignty next door to it. So what you're saying is let's not get hung up anymore on whether they call it a state or not, let's focus on the capabilities question.

That's right. And of course, the size and all that and the limitations.

THE PA

Do you view the Palestinian Authority as a police state?

No, that's not the way I see it, that's the way it is. It's the way Amnesty sees it, it's the way everybody else sees it and fortunately that is the way most of the subjects of that state, of that Palestinian entity today see it. In many ways it is a state, [Ariel] Sharon keeps saying they really have a state already. In many ways it is much more of a state than it was envisioned as being in the Oslo agreement, as you know.

They'll probably soon mint their own currency and probably there'll be very little that we can do about it. They already have currency on the stamps. They have a flag, they have an army. They don't even bother calling the army a police anymore, they call it an army. They have foreign relations. This is one of the major violations of the Oslo agreement. They have embassies everywhere.

If they declare a state tomorrow, and I'm sure that they will not do so only because they have control over very little land, I'm sure that the whole world will recognize it. So I don't think that's the point. The point is whether we will let that state become the kind of threat that it can be without the preimposed limitations.

How would Israel react if they unilaterally declared statehood?

Well, that would be very foolish of them right now, because that would first of all mean that the Oslo agreement is out the window and also it would mean that they can only have a state over the area they now control and that is, as you know, a very small area. This includes all of Area B which obviously ultimately will be included in the Palestinian-controlled area. Even that, 27% is not very much, even if they declare it over the whole area, it won't mean very much, so I don't think they'll do it.

When you said they are in violation of 90% of the Oslo accord, is there a contradiction between Israel saying on one hand they are in total violation and sending

(Continued on Page 17)

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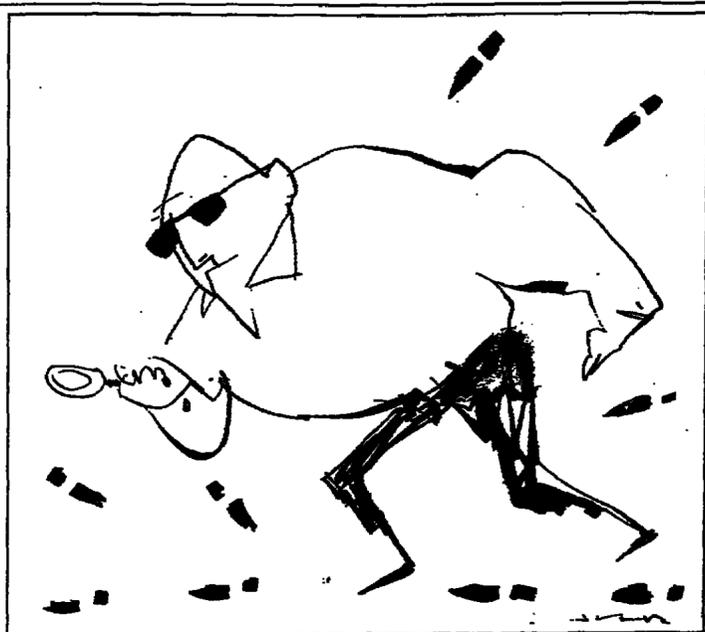
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Ayalon and Netanyahu square off

Last September's clashes are only one point of dispute between the prime minister and the intelligence service. Steve Rodan reports



WHEN Menachem Begin was swept into power in 1977, the staffers at the prime minister's Office were in a state of shock. As Begin was returning from the handover ceremony, he was met with a list of resignations, including those from the heads of the General Security Service and the Mossad.

Begin refused to accept the resignations. "He said they should continue in their posts," Yehiel Adishai, then head of the Prime Minister's Office, recalls. "Begin as the prime minister of the state, not of a party. Had they not been loyal he would have let them go. Instead, they served the interests of the nation."

Nearly 20 years later, Binyamin Netanyahu entered the prime minister's Office to meet the heads of the Mossad and GSS appointed just months earlier by the previous labor-led government. Like Begin, whom Netanyahu then severely criticized, the new prime minister did not request their resignations. But unlike 1977, neither GSS chief Ami Ayalon nor Mossad chief Dan Yatom offered to leave.

That, say supporters of Netanyahu, explains much of the current tension between the prime minister and the security chiefs he inherited. "It's different today," Adishai says, "because those who were from the previous labor governments thought they were born to rule and they think that the state is the inheritance of their grandmothers."

In 1977, Kadishai says, party politics notwithstanding, an argument between the prime minister and the GSS head would never have been public knowledge. Indeed, in those days, incoming labor appointees didn't even know the names of the security chiefs. This is in marked contrast to the two Knesset investigations of the September opening of the eastern Wall tunnel exit in Jerusalem's Old City and this week's charges by opposition parliamentarians that Netanyahu lied when he claimed that Ayalon supported the decision.

Privately, even opposition MKs knew that politics clouded any serious attempt to obtain a truth of how the government decided to open the tunnel exit. As he of them puts it, "Summon all

of the participants to a failure to a tribunal and each will explain how he had nothing to do with the decision."

The only thing that members of the two committees - Foreign Affairs and Defense, and Comptroller's - could agree upon was that each participant told the committees something else.

The bottom line was that nobody claimed responsibility for the decision. Ayalon told the Knesset that the GSS had warned since May of an uprising in the territories. Internal Security Minister Avigdor Kahalani said his job was not to coordinate with the IDF; the IDF chief of staff and intelligence chief said they weren't involved in the decision to open the tunnel exit. Deputy Prime Minister and Tourism Minister Moshe Katsav said he didn't receive any assessments from the GSS or the IDF.

Opposition parliamentarians such as Meretz MK Yossi Sarid chose to disbelieve government representatives. Ayalon told the committee that he was told of the tunnel decision hours before Yom Kippur, a day before the actual opening.

"I heard in the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee with my own ears his reservations about the tunnel opening," Sarid says. "I also heard that from the chief of staff. I heard the police version and they also had reservations."

Seconds later, however, Sarid acknowledges that he heard all of these assessments after the Israeli-Palestinian clashes that followed the tunnel opening.

BUT AFTER more than six months of Likud rule, party politics is becoming increasingly marginal in the tense relations between Netanyahu and his security chiefs. Both security sources and those close to the prime minister list several explanations for what they agree is the most embarrassing, and also perhaps most damaging, episode of civil-military feuding since the GSS secretly killed the Palestinian hijackers of Bus 300 in 1984 and then blamed it on an IDF commander named Yitzhak Mordechai, today defense minister.

Firstly they point to inexperience. Simply put, the combination of the security chiefs and their

political bosses is the most inexperienced since the establishment of the state. Netanyahu never held a cabinet post until the June election; Mordechai, the only general to have headed all three field commands, was fresh out of the army; Yatom and Ayalon have virtually no experience in running an intelligence service.

Add to that two more newcomers: an IDF intelligence chief who is an outsider to the corps and appointed only last year; and a new head of the intelligence's research division.

Ayalon, however, is the most problematic. His job is to collect intelligence, analyze it and foil terrorist plots, and to do it quickly. "I don't know Ami Ayalon but I acknowledge that he is missing something in his national security background," says MK Rehavam

Ze'evi, a former senior IDF commander and prime minister's adviser on counterterrorism. Both supporters and critics of Ayalon also say that the former Navy commander is known for being inconsistent.

"Call it two-faced," says a source close to Ayalon who has known him for 20 years. "He can tell different people different things."

This characteristic, those close to Ayalon say, explains the discrepancy in his account of the tunnel opening. Aides to the prime minister, supported by several senior security sources, recall that Ayalon held two meetings with the prime minister. The sessions were one-on-one.

As Netanyahu puts it, Ayalon urged him to open the tunnel. "That's an understatement," a

source close to the prime minister says. "He wanted it done as soon as possible. He said, 'No time is good and no time is bad.' Bibi kept asking him, 'Are you sure that the time is right? He said there will be some shouting but that's all.'"

The prime minister then called for a formal discussion on September 16, which included Ayalon as well as other security officials. There, Ayalon tempered his original enthusiasm. He said the tunnel should be opened together with Solomon's Stables along with some development in the Israeli-Palestinian negotiations.

Netanyahu agreed that those conditions appeared fulfilled. The Wafk already was in control of Solomon's Stables on the Temple Mount and Mordechai had what was regarded as a successful meeting with Palestinian Authority

chief Yasser Arafat. AIDES TO the prime minister were stunned with what they termed Ayalon's revised version of events in the aftermath of the Palestinian-Israeli clashes in the territories. Ayalon never mentioned his support of the tunnel opening but claimed that he had been warning consistently of a blow-up with the Palestinians.

On Monday, Ayalon tried to set the record straight. In an unusual move, he released a statement that he recommended the opening of the tunnel exit. "I want to clarify several things," Ayalon said. "In several meetings in different periods I raised the issue of the tunnel with the prime minister and encouraged him to open the tunnel. I stressed that the timing is not a central problem."

Sources close to Netanyahu were pleased. But some of them still sound disturbed. "Either Ayalon is extremely forgetful or he's not an honest man," one says. "How can he continue to be GSS chief?"

Ayalon, however, does not want to resign and Netanyahu accepts this. For Ayalon, leaving the GSS after a year in the job would stain his career and further damage an agency already rocked by the resignation of about a dozen senior agents in the last two years. In short, there's nobody in the GSS regarded as being even close to a successor.

The GSS chief doesn't see any other choice but to stick with the job. "I always worked with him [Netanyahu] and there's no reason why I can't work with him in the future," Ayalon said as he makes his way to a Knesset committee room. "You know, I can sing you a song: 'I have no other land.'"

Observers also point to Ayalon's poor administration. Netanyahu was stunned by the Palestinian gun battles in September. But senior government sources say he remains uninterested in intelligence issues. He attends the weekly briefings of the security services but, they say, he does not read their intelligence reports.

Indeed, the sources say, only three ministers regularly read the reports - available to most of the cabinet. They are Mordechai, National Infrastructure Minister Ariel Sharon and Science Minister Ze'ev Binyamin Begin. Sometimes, they are joined by Education Minister Zevulun Hammer.

"The feeling by Netanyahu is he

simply knows better," a source says. The result has been chaotic decision-making in several fields. Diplomats say Netanyahu several times drew a blank when he met with a delegation from the World Bank. Embarrassed aides later explained that the prime minister had refused a briefing on Israel's economic situation.

Earlier this month, Netanyahu's penchant for poorly-prepared decisions led to a near-crisis with both Egypt and the US. After consultations with his aides, the prime minister decided he would not meet with Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Mussa during his visit to Lisbon where he would attend a European security conference.

By the time Netanyahu arrived in Lisbon, senior government sources say, he had changed his mind. The prime minister met Mussa and suggested he visit Israel to convince the Palestinians to sign an agreement for an IDF redeployment in Hebron.

Within hours, Netanyahu realized he made a mistake. US officials were upset that Mussa was coming in to play what appeared to be a mediating role. Instead, government officials say Mussa would not be welcomed in Israel and the foreign minister and Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak responded angrily.

Netanyahu then sent his diplomatic adviser Dore Gold last week to make amends and prepare for an eventual meeting. Egyptian officials say the meeting was a failure.

"It was more than embarrassing," one senior source says. "The episode antagonized everybody and made Bibi into a patsy."

Arab diplomats agree. "There's nobody to talk to in this administration," one says. "We thought it would get better but it doesn't."

For their part, Israeli security officials have decided that they don't want to be part of any dispute with the prime minister. As Ayalon was being mobbed by reporters on Monday, IDF Chief of Staff Lt.-Gen. Amnon Shabak smiled in apparent amusement.

One reporter turned to Shabak and asked whether he was satisfied with working with Netanyahu. Shabak wiped the smile off his face.

"There's no such thing as a working relationship," he said. "We are appointed by an elected level. Nothing good can come out of [exploring] this [further]."

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THE JERUSALEM POST International Edition

US sends globetrotter to the UN

The new US ambassador to the UN is a jet-setting human-rights activist with a record of support for Israel. Marilyn Henry reports from New York.

Since US foreign policy is dictated from Washington, the UN envoy toes the government line and Richardson will not be calling the shots on US policy toward Israel. Nonetheless, he will come to the post having traveled frequently to the region and with a record of strong support for Israel.

That sentiment was expressed recently when violence erupted in Israel following the opening of the second exit to the Hasmonian tunnel. Richardson counseled against pressuring Israel. "To squeeze right now, to threaten an important ally that is besieged, I think is counterproductive," he said in a television interview. "That doesn't mean that we don't do everything we can to get the peace process going."

At that time, he also said that PLO leader Yasser Arafat had to

control the Palestinians, and that Egypt and Saudi Arabia "can't keep fanning the flames. They need to find ways to be part of a constructive role in the [peace] process."

While Albright, a Czech refugee, came to the UN with an academic background, Richardson's skills were honed on the hustings. The energetic Mexican-American politician was famous for flying from Washington to his Southwestern state virtually every weekend for town meetings and parades.

Richardson served 14 years as a Democratic member of Congress representing northern New Mexico. The state - roughly the size of New York - has a population of 1.5 million, with perhaps 10,000 Jews. He has become acclimated to diversity by serving a congressional district that includes 28 sovereign Indian

tribes, a Hispanic population that has been settled there for centuries, the Los Alamos National (Nuclear) Laboratories, the Taos ski area, and the city of Santa Fe, which is noted as a congenial place for artists.

His Jewish constituency is quite small, as the overwhelming majority of Jews live in the Albuquerque area, which is outside of Richardson's district.

THE NEW envoy himself is a model of cultural diversity, the son of a Boston banker father and a mother from Mexico City. He was born in California, spent his youth in Mexico and later moved to Boston.

He had been a great baseball pitcher who, at 18, was drafted by the Kansas City A's team. After an elbow injury clipped his baseball career, he studied international

relations, then headed to Capitol Hill, where he began his career as a lowly congressional aide.

Since February 1994, Richardson has been an itinerant advocate for political prisoners and human rights, traveling to North Korea, Myanmar, Cuba, Bangladesh, Nigeria, Peru, Iraq, Serbia, Nigeria, Sudan and India.

So impressed was a group of Hispanic-Americans that last year it nominated him for the Nobel Peace Prize.

He met Burmese Nobel laureate Aung San Sun Kyi, then under house arrest; negotiated with the former military leaders of Haiti; and twice tussled with North Korea.

In July 1995, Richardson was instrumental in getting Iraqi President Saddam Hussein to free Americans William Barlow and David Dalibert. The two mechanics, who had been working for US defense contractors in Kuwait, had been held captive for four months after wandering across Iraq's southern border, while trying to visit friends at a UN observation post.

A week before President Bill Clinton designated him for the UN position, Richardson and a rebel leader were sitting under a mango tree in Sudan negotiating over the freedom of three Red Cross workers being held hostage there.

Late last month, Richardson negotiated the release of Evan Humziker, who had been detained for three months in North Korea on espionage charges after illegally entering the country. (On Wednesday, Humziker, a 26-year-old missionary, was found dead in Tacoma, Washington, in what officials called a suicide.)

In North Korea, in late 1994, Richardson fell into his diplomatic career. The congressman was en route to North Korea to discuss a nuclear agreement when a US Army helicopter was shot down in North Korea. Pyongyang wanted Richardson to leave. He refused and spent five days in negotiations between the State Department and the North Koreans, until the release of the pilot and the return of the body of an airman who died in the crash.

Richardson returned to the US from that first diplomatic foray with a taste for adventure, but with high overheads. He had racked up a \$10,000 phone bill.

Overhead will be a primary issue at the UN, which is under pressure to get its financial house in order and must convince the US to pay its \$1 billion worth of overdue bills.

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TRUE FRIENDSHIP

To: James A. Baker III
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On behalf of Gush Shalom - the Israeli Peace Bloc - I wish to convey to you our heartfelt appreciation for your courageous and timely initiative. We call upon you to continue with your efforts to rally world public opinion for peace in our country and region, against all actions which threaten to cause another round of bloodshed and suffering. Unfortunately, the continued settlement activity of our present government is the most explosive element in this situation. We consider your efforts to defuse this looming danger as proof of true friendship for Israel and her people. I would like to draw your attention to the fact that it is the American tax-payer who unwittingly provides the most crucial help to the fanatical settlers and their political allies, by making the financial contributions of their American supporters tax-exempt. Immense sums flow to the settlers from billionaires who live safely in the U.S. but are ready to fight for the glory of Israel to the last Israeli soldier. I hope that you will extend your moral support to the Israeli peace forces who are struggling against great odds for peace and justice in our country. Gush Shalom believes that peace and reconciliation must be based on the co-existence of two states - Israel and Palestine - with Jerusalem as their common capital. Uri Avnery, Former member of the Knesset, Chairman, Gush Shalom

Zbigniew Brzezinski replied: Dear Mr. Avnery, Thank you for your message and the constructive - even visionary - sentiments expressed in it. They are much appreciated and they give additional hope to those who believe both in Israel and in Arab-Israeli peace.

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The rising sun in the Holy Land

Japanese participants in a recent dialogue in Jerusalem found Israeli academics and businesspeople stimulating and intelligent. Yosef Goell met with them

One thing our two countries, Japan and Israel, have in common is that we are not liked by our neighbors. Thus began Professor Makoto Iokibe, law professor at Kobe University, who was casting around for similarities between the two countries with which to start the ball rolling at the Japan-Israel dialogue held last month at the Van Leer Jerusalem Institute. He was certainly correct in that parallelism, but way off in another one.

Iokibe, like the other members of the Japanese group, declared how deeply moved they were by their visit to Masada, and hearing the story of its ancient Jewish defenders from their guide, Iokibe went on to compare the nationalist myth of Masada to the Japanese concept of the kamikaze. To the somewhat perplexed Israeli participants the Japanese explained that what had impressed them at Masada was the story of the decision of the Jewish defenders of that desert fortress, against the superior Romans, to commit mass suicide when that fight proved hopeless. Many Japanese soldiers behaved in similar fashion when the American forces closed in on Fortresses Japan at the end of World War II.

The kamikaze were the Japanese suicide pilots who dove their bombers onto the decks of American aircraft carriers in the vain hope of stemming the impending American invasion of their homeland. Those modern kamikazes were named after the "divine wind," which sank the gigantic Mongol armada, which in 1281 was set to invade the Japanese Islands across the Straits of Tsushima.

It is hard to imagine two countries, peoples and cultures more different than Israel and Japan - which are at the opposite ends of the Asian continent. To begin with, Japan's population stands at 126 million compared with our own, at less than six million; and Japan's "sky-high" gross national product per capita towers over Israel's middling standing, which

has just recently qualified her for entry into the list of the world's wealthiest nations.

Once the ice was broken, however, the Japanese and Israeli participants gave up seeking strained similarities between the two countries and societies in favor of asking questions and attempting informative answers. Those answers highlighted how little even highly educated people, like the dialogue participants, really know about each other's countries.

It would be hard to exaggerate the high level of the members of the Japanese delegation. Yamamoto told me that Yesuhiro Tani, a columnist for the *Nihon Keizai Shinbun*, was on the fast track to becoming editor of his newspaper, Japan's leading financial journal after which the Nikkei Stock Exchange Index is named. Keiichi Honda, a leading economist and investment adviser, is chairman of the Nihon Sun Microsystems, and prior to that appointment held senior positions at the bank of Tokyo. The others were leading professors of law, political science and international relations.

Prior to the session on regional security, the Japanese had all remarked on their perception of Israel as the strongest military power in the Middle East. As the presentation by Professor Yoshitake Soeya of Keio University progressed, however, both sides began expounding on their "competitive nightmare scenarios": Israel's being the entry of nuclearized Iran and Iraq into the conflict. Soeya noted that while the Japanese had developed the sixth largest armed forces in the world, they intentionally shunned any nuclear role, having agreed to dwell under the American nuclear umbrella.

The American-Japanese alliance was forged as part of America's global strategy to wage the Cold War against the Soviet Union. It was an alliance of unequals, Soeya said, but antagonistic to both sides. Now that the Cold War

was over, the Japanese fear is that the Americans might be tempted to withdraw from that alliance, leaving Japan to face China as the new major regional power. Soeya denied the Chinese charge that the US and Japan aimed their alliance against China, asserting that it was aimed primarily at the threat from North Korea.

One of the problems confronting Japanese strategists, he noted, was that it was as yet impossible to predict which way China would develop: Towards internal unity and focused on economic development, or in the direction of internal dissension and external aggression.

ONE OF the surprises of the session was Professor Nehemiah Levinson, who first asserted that the Arabs did not constitute an existential threat to Israel after 1956 - "the existential threat in the Six Day and the Yom Kippur wars was largely imaginary," he said. Having established his credentials as a peace-camp dove, he then went on to claim that even if peace were attained with the Palestinians and the surrounding Arab states, "if the Arab states in the future feel that they have a real option to destroy Israel by war, they would take it."

"I am very much in favor of the peace process, but I believe that the advent of peace will in no way reduce Israel's need to remain militarily strong. I believe, however, that it will not be necessary to retain various territories to ensure that strength," he said, to which some of his Jewish Israeli colleagues retorted: "If that analysis is true that means that the peace is very dangerous to Israel."

Hebrew University professor of psychology Amia Lieblich pointed out, for example, that it would be very problematic to maintain popular motivation for continuing to maintain a militarily strong Israel in an atmosphere of peace.

Keiichi Honda analyzed some of the internal economic and social problems that had put a stop to the Japanese "bubble economy" economic miracle, such as a government and business bureaucracy which engendered rigidity, a basically frugal Japanese population in the midst of economic prosperity, and an extremely passive Japanese nature "compared with the frenetic Israelis."



Chairman Yamamoto: We were moved and stimulated by our visit.

He said that as a result of his tour he was very excited over the possibilities of the development of the Jordan Rift Valley, including the various plans for canals between the Mediterranean and the Dead Seas. "Japanese investors are what made possible the financing of the Channel Tunnel between France and England, and similar major projects in Sumatra. The prospect of such Japanese participation in Israeli projects is exciting, but the obvious condition is that the peace process continues and bears fruit," he said.

"But the way we Japanese operate is to send hundreds of missions to study proposed projects and, only afterwards, mulling interminably over their reports to decide. Our mission could be seen as part of such a process," he said. "The fact that we Japanese have been especially good at doing assembly work has been the basis of much of our economic success," he said, rolling his hands and holding his fingers to indicate the source of Japan's economic miracle.

The problem is, he added, "that much of that sort of work is being farmed out to other countries and to imported labor. Fewer and fewer Japanese are willing to do that work, and the old social contract which guaranteed workers a life-long job and career in return for loyalty to the company, is fast eroding."

"Our problem is that our IQ is definitely lower than yours. While

we have been good at assembly and the organization of production, we have not shown the same sort of ingenuity and flexibility that I found here."

It was hard for me to tell whether the very definitely non-inscrutable Honda meant it, or was merely buttering us up.

Building bridges

WHEN you come down to it, tiny Israel at the end of Asia is not of that great intrinsic importance to Japan, but you are enthusiastically exciting and intellectually stimulating to us," Tadashi Yamamoto told me in summing up the two day Japan-Israel dialogue at the Van Leer Jerusalem Institute.

Yamamoto, who organized and led the six-person - including one woman - Japanese mission to the dialogue, was the founder, in 1970, of the Japan Center for International Exchange, of which he is still the president.

He has a long history of initiating and serving on such international exchange and dialogue groups, and is also an adviser to the Japanese prime minister. He served as Japanese executive director of the Japan-US Economic Relations Group, the US-Japan Advisory Commission and the Korea-Japan 21st Century Committee.

Yamamoto is currently the Japanese director of the prestigious Trilateral Commission, the UK-Japan 2000 group, the Japanese-German Dialogue Forum, and the Korea-Japan Forum.

"In recent years, there has been a vague admiration for Israel among Japanese intellectuals and business leaders, coupled with a degree of skepticism and a staggering lack of knowledge. There is also a certain empathy for Israel based on a sense of a shared burden of being the victims of atrocities [the Holocaust and Hiroshima]."

"But Israel has been an abstraction even for those Japanese who have such feelings. Nothing beats direct exposure to real live Israelis and to the country itself to make those impressions real. I can't emphasize enough how much the members of the group were moved and stimulated by their visit."

Yamamoto said that he would be bringing a second such Japanese group to Israel for another dialogue next year. A parallel Israeli group visited Japan for a similar dialogue in 1993, and another such session will be held in Japan next September.

In Israel, the Japan-Israel Dialogue is represented by the Van Leer Jerusalem Institute and its chairman, Professor Nehemiah Levinson, who with Yamamoto co-chaired last month's sessions.

"By the time we will have brought 20-30 such Japanese intellectual and business leaders for tours and dialogues in Israel, we will have created the critical mass needed to change the landscape of the relations between our two countries," predicted Yamamoto.

Yamamoto is the son of Admiral Isoroku Yamamoto, who as head of the Japanese combined fleet masterminded the attack on Pearl Harbor in 1941. After he was shot down over the Solomon Islands in 1943 he became the outstanding Japanese war hero of World War II.

The China syndrome in US-Israel relations

Israel's arms deals with China add an uncomfortable dimension to relations with the US, Gerald Steinberg reports

IF, as expected, tensions between Washington and Beijing increase, the challenge for Israel is to continue to walk the narrow tightrope between the alliance and cooperation with the US on the one hand, and sustaining the positive relationship with China on the other. This will require policy makers to make decisions carefully in this area, weighing the possible benefits of increased dealings with China against the dangers and long-term costs with the Americans. In the past, such careful balancing was often the exception rather than the rule where lucrative arms sales were involved.

During Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai's recent visit to Washington, he discussed the issue with US Secretary of Defense William Perry, and a public statement was released regarding efforts to improve policy coordination on policies regarding export of weapons and technology. Such an arrangement provides the best hope for insuring the interests of Israel and the US, while avoiding additional disputes.

The friendly diplomatic language heard during US Secretary of State Warren Christopher's visit to China, and the meeting between President Clinton and Chinese President Jiang Zemin in Manila, masked growing tensions in relations between Washington and Beijing.

The points of conflict include American complaints regarding Chinese trade practices, China's human rights abuses, and Beijing's weak policies on nuclear non-proliferation and control of related technological exports.

Also, the transfer of control of Hong Kong from Britain to China, scheduled for July 1997, will constitute a major test, and few analysts and policy makers expect it to go smoothly.

China's strained relations with Israel Aircraft Industries, Elbit, TAAS-Israeli Industries and Rafael, and the weapons technologies they produce, are vital to Israel's own long-term security, and if agreements and revenues from China help these firms stay in business, then it makes sense for the Ministry of Defense to license and even promote these sales.

From the Israeli perspective, this policy also represents an important political investment.

In the tense years of the Bush-Baker administration, some American government officials leaked reports of illegal Israeli transfers of US military technology to China (published versions of these reports referred to an unnamed US ally).

After the 1991 Gulf War, these leaks claimed that Israel had provided the Chinese with the plans for Patriot air-and-missile defense systems.

The US took the unprecedented step of sending a team of Pentagon investigators to gather evidence, and their report cleared Israel, noting that no evidence was found.

But the allegations and leaks persist.

More recently, there are reports of tension between Washington and Jerusalem over plans to sell China an Falcon airborne early warning aircraft, based on Israeli-made electronics and a Russian transport aircraft. To date, the Russian government has not approved the deal, but the negotiations have not been received very well in the US.

Since the American embargo on the sale of weapons and technology to China, Israel is viewed as the provider of an alternative source, thereby weakening the impact of US policy.

For Israel, China represents a very important potential market for military technology during a period of drastic reductions in other markets and crisis in the defense industries.

If the health of firms such as Israel Aircraft Industries, Elbit, TAAS-Israeli Industries and Rafael, and the weapons technologies they produce, are vital to Israel's own long-term security, and if agreements and revenues from China help these firms stay in business, then it makes sense for the Ministry of Defense to license and even promote these sales.

From the Israeli perspective, this policy also represents an important political investment.

FOR DECADES, China did not have diplomatic relations with Israel and supported the radical Arab states.

The close links between Israel and China over the past 15 years have led to changes in the Chinese policies, and in the future, as China's power and influence grow, it is important for Israel that the old policies are not restored.

Israel does not want to see China take the Soviet Union's place as the main supplier of weapons and technology to Syria, Iraq, and other Arab states.

The military links with China provide a form of insurance for Israel against this type of policy.

If the tensions between the US and China increase in the next few years, the Israeli links to and differing perspectives and interests with respect to China may become a major source of contention in the US-Israel relationship.

Israel has no vital national interests at stake in Asia, but does seek to prevent Chinese sales of weapons and technology to the Arabs.

(Israel also has links with Taiwan, and has carefully avoided choosing sides or being involved in the disputes between Taiwan and China).

At the same time, the maintenance and strengthening of defense and strategic cooperation with the US is far more vital to Israeli security.

As a result, Israel has a strong interest in avoiding a clash with the Americans over the issue of technology and weapons sales to China.

If there is a military confrontation between the US and China, Israel does not want to be seen by the American public as a major source of China's advanced military technology.

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This week's "thank you" goes to the 70 members of the three chapters of the Israel Men's Choir, the Israel Women's Choir, and the Israel Children's Choir, who gave such a wonderful performance at the Israel Music Festival in Jerusalem. The Israel Music Festival is a wonderful event, and we are proud to have been a part of it. We hope you enjoyed the concert as much as we did. Thank you for your support and for making it possible for us to perform. We look forward to seeing you again at the next concert.

THIS week I spent two unforeseen days in the city of Djibouti, the capital of the country of the same name. If you've never heard of either, you needn't feel ignorant. Djibouti, the former French Somaliland, is the second smallest state in Africa, and leads the world only in its average summer temperature — which is 44 degrees centigrade. "Apart from that," said the captain of the yacht that was putting me ashore, a Dutch shipping magnate with whom I had sailed across the Arabian Sea, "it has a charming old French colonial center. I wouldn't go beyond it, though. A sailor from a ship of mine did that a year ago and came back with an ear cut off."

He turned me over to the care of his local agent, Mr. Abdullah Said, and the two of us headed for shore on a launch that resembled an antique iron, passing the French naval base, a rust-eaten Ukrainian freighter unloading sacks of beet sugar, and a decrepit tug called the *Arthur Rimbaud*. Some black crows jeered our arrival from trees that still looked in shock from the previous summer.

"Do not be worried," said Mr. Abdullah Said as my passport was taken away by a uniformed man with gold epaulettes, at a shack called *Le Bureau d'Immigration*. On the wall hung a photo of President Hassan Gouled, who has ruled the country — sometimes with but mostly without elections

Two days in hell

AGAINST THE GRAIN
HILLEL HALKIN

— since its independence in 1977. "Very good man," said Mr. Said, handing me the 48-hour shore pass that was my visa.

"Tomorrow morning we go to ticket office, you get plane ticket, you get passport." He seemed to consider this a necessary precaution to keep me from remaining in Djibouti forever. "I come at eight-and-a-half," he said, dropping me off at my hotel.

It did not take long to explore the town center, which was patrolled by the local gendarmerie and French military policemen in short pants and tall kepis. It had a paved square called Place de Rimbaud and a Rue de Paris, a Rue de Rome, a Rue de Moscou, and a Rue de Geneve — all smelling of urine. It had some old buildings that may once have been charming, and some new ones that were not. It had many flies and beggars, a bank, two money changers, a clothing store, a boulangerie, numerous shoeshine boys, and a picture-postcard seller, some restaurants with dark interiors, two French bookstores, and a large number of barber shops I would not have risked an ear in.

There was a small marketplace with fruit and vegetable stands and butcher stalls that sold only live goats. It had pretty women in

bright dresses and shawls, and skinny men in skirts who carried sticks behind their backs — apparently to improve their posture.

There was not much to do in Djibouti. It had no newspaper and no cinema, although its large mosque was filled to capacity. It had a man with a bathroom scale you could weigh yourself on for a small sum, and a man with a cigarette taped to some cardboard that was yours if you hit it with an air gun. In the evening the off-duty MPs met their Somali girlfriends in the cafes, and the black crows gathered in Place de Rimbaud to jeer in unison until the sun set. Later, came the whores; their badge of trade, the large paper flowers in their hair. At night, like a demented neighbor, the muezzin woke you from your sleep.

ARTHUR RIMBAUD. It was in November 1885 that the world's first beatnik, who declared at 17 his ambition of "becoming a poet and arriving at the unknown by a derangement of all my senses," arrived in Djibouti — then a small French trading outpost on the Gulf of Tadjoura — on a gun-running

expedition to Ethiopia. He remained until June, arguing with the camel drivers about their payment and finally burying the guns in the sand and then departing in 70-degree heat.

"Oh how I loved the desert," he wrote in his *Season in Hell*, before ever having seen one. "Its scorched meadows, faded shops, and tepid drinks. I shuffled down the stinking alleyways and offered myself with shut eyes to the sun, the god of fire." Djibouti remembers him proudly.

In the morning, Abdullah Said did not show up until nine-and-a-half, but it hardly mattered because the ticket offices were closed. "I come have lunch with you at one," he said. He arrived at two-and-a-half, as I was finishing dessert. I divided the rest of the day between the two French bookstores.

The next day I obtained a plane ticket and Mr. Said drove me to retrieve my passport. My flight was at ten-and-a-half that evening. "I come take you to the airport at eight," said Mr. Said.

I understood this to mean I would take a taxi without him. To my surprise, however, he turned up early and accompanied me through customs, where my passport photograph was scrutinized by four different soldiers, fearful I

might be fleeing Djibouti under a false identity. Well, who wouldn't if they could?

"Have you ever been abroad?" I asked Mr. Said as we sat having a last drink at the bar.

"Yes. To Holland, for two months."

"It must have been hard to come back," I said solicitously.

Abdullah Said looked at me in surprise. "Oh, no, he said, 'I am glad to be here. Very bad place Europe. Very lonely. In Djibouti, if I have food and you have none, you eat mine. If you have food and I have none, I eat yours. In Europe...' He mimed bugging a plate avariciously to his breast.

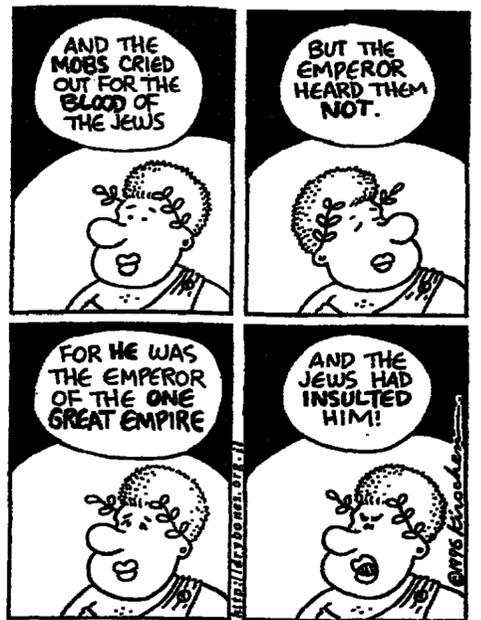
Now I stared at him.

"If you are Somali person, wherever you go, you must be give to eat. If you come to house there be nothing there, you must be give what there is. If you do not give, everyone say I be bad." Mr. Said made a terrible face to demonstrate how bad he would be thought. "What for I make all so money for myself, be big commercial man in Europe way, eh? When Europe man die, there be no one to bury him. In Djibouti all bury me I share my food with, all say I a very good man. Very good country to live in, this."

In the passenger lounge a Saudi prince in a designer *abaya* was rocking back and forth over a Koran, like a Hassid.

Djibouti. You get your come-uppance in the damndest places.

Dry Bones



Kippa-wearing bogeymen

A VIEW FROM NOV
MOSHE KOHN

AN OLD and bitter observation about the cause of antisemitism — I don't remember whether by a Jew or a non-Jew — has it that half of what 16 1/2 centuries ago ceased to be the heathen world and became the "Christian world" hate us for rejecting and allegedly crucifying Jesus, and the other half hate us for producing him and "imposing" him and our/his gloomy monotheistic, moral/ethical doctrine on those who were previously happy-go-lucky pagans.

An equally bitter observation, doubtless of Jewish origin, notes that proletarian antisemitism labels the Jews as "filthy capitalists" controlling the world's banks, railroads and newspapers, squeezing the world's workers and peasants, while capitalist antisemitism labels us as "dirty Reds" bent on seizing everybody's hard-earned wealth.

Then there's our reputation as sniveling cowards, unwilling to lift up a weapon or even raise a fist in defense of the countries in which we lived, or even in defense of our honor, property, and very lives, which has now been replaced by our reputation as Nazi-type brutes.

In certain circles, our "yellow" reputation persisted after World War II, despite the disproportionately large number of Jews serving in the Allied armed forces, and despite their stellar fighting record in those forces and in the partisan groups in German-occupied Europe. It persisted to the extent that in 1948, some Arab leaders told their constituents that their war against newborn Israel, that land of cowardly Jew-dogs, would be a walkover comparable to Genghis Khan's conquests. (One of their hymns was "Al Yahud kalabna, Filastin baladna! The Jews are our dogs, Palestine is our land.")

After we repelled the Arab attempts on our life in 1948, and especially in June 1967, our enemies and even some friends and fellow Jews suddenly saw us not as cowards but as Jewish Nazis riding herd on innocent Arabs and threatening world peace. Our victories, as Ephraim Kishon brilliantly pointed out following the 1956 Sinai Campaign and again after the Six Day War, lost us the sympathy of the world.

If we don't raise our fists we're not pacifists but cowards; if we do fight back, especially if we win, we're warmongering brutes.

IN ISRAEL today, that ambivalent attitude of much of the gentile world to Jewish physical

pross and valor, or lack of it, has been adopted by some left-wing secularist Jews towards the Orthodox.

Physically and mentally fit Orthodox young men and women who do no national service — not in either the Israel Defense Forces or other security units, nor in any kind of alternative communal service — on the grounds that *Toraitam umanutam* (Torah study is their sole occupation), or on grounds of piety, have been justly criticized for their failure to be partners in the physical defense and/or building of our land and society.

The epithet "parasite" applies well to some of those people, as it does to those secular youths whose "cosmic" conscience tells them that they are above "parochialism" serving their country in any manner, and as it does to members of some of our cooperative enterprises like the Electric Corporation and certain kibbutzim and moshavim.

But now — so it appears to the sick imagination of some "left-wingers" — there is an Orthodox conspiracy to take over the IDF and eventually turn Israel into a Prussian or Iranian-type theocracy. Some Orthodox Jews are even brazen enough to think they can produce prime ministerial candidates.

It seems that there has lately been a "radical" increase in the number of black-hatted, black-kippaed haredi young men asking to be conscripted (*Yerushalayim*, November 8). Many of them even ask to be assigned to fighting units.

Moreover, for some time now, there has been a steady increase in the number of knitted-kippaed, national-religious young men, who have always served in the IDF, signing up for stints in the regular army in addition to their conscript service. And a growing number of them are rising in the officers' ranks. They include men who go directly into the IDF at age 18, those who go in the *hesder* framework of five years of combined yeshiva study and active military service, and those who go into the IDF after a year or two at a yeshiva-type *mechina* (preparatory school) doing higher Torah studies and undergoing a rigorous regimen of paramilitary training.

(National-religious young women have also always served in the IDF or have done alterna-

tive national service.)

The O/C Manpower Branch, Major-General Gideon Shefer, is pleased with this development, saying those knitted-kippaed men are "excellent people" (interviewed by Orit Galili, *Ha'aretz*, December 9).

But, "the prominence of yeshiva students in the elite units and in the lower officer echelons will in the not-too-distant future lead to a situation where the IDF's command echelon will be composed of men for whom the army is their sole authority — alongside the army there is the sometimes-contrary authority of the rabbis."

So writes Lili Galili in an article in *Ha'aretz* (August 21) discussing the drop in motivation to serve among the youth of the non-religious kibbutzim who were once leaders, accompanied by the rise in motivation among those of the religious kibbutzim, and especially among the yeshiva students.

She discussed the matter with reserve major-general Moshe Even-Hen, who headed the IDF's behavioral sciences section. He agreed with her assessment that "the day is not far off" when we will face an intersecular struggle over whether the rabbis or the generals shall be the source of authority in the army, and over whether secularism or Torah shall occupy the central place in society.

Danny Wolf, a reserve lieutenant-colonel, one of the founders of the Paratroop Corps, and a former commander of the crack fighting unit Sayeret Shaked and of a reserve Paratroop brigade, has no faith in the ability of the yeshiva students to fight our wars as they need to be fought. Concerning the *hesder* soldiers, Wolf says the person they "really" take orders from "is their rabbi, not their company commander."

Furthermore, they "will be Khomeinist soldiers... There isn't much of a gap between the motivation of the children Khomeini sent to fight against Iraq and that of the *hesder* students — both are sure God is on their side."

Wolf believes that in electing Binyamin Netanyahu last May, "the nation democratically chose to move towards a war that will be unlike anything we've had. There will be no victors. Thousands will be killed: Jews and Arabs. And civilians" (*Ha'aretz*, October 31).

"Strike the Jews and save Russia!" said a tsarist-era slogan.

"Strike the Orthodox/the right and save Israel!" says our secular/left.

The tears of Joseph

SHABBAT SHALOM
SHLOMO RISKIN

"And Joseph made ready his chariot, and went up to meet Israel his father, to Goshen; and he presented himself unto him, and fell on his neck, and wept on his neck a good while..." (Gen. 46:29)

GIVEN the magnitude of Jacob's suffering at the disappearance of his favorite son, first-born of his beloved and long-departed wife, we can easily imagine how moving the reunion between father and son must have been. After all, 22 years had passed during which Jacob's only sole had inexplicably been removed from the face of the earth, probably cruelly torn by a wild beast. And if tears reflect an emotional state beyond words, then a good case could be made that both father and son wept — tears of joy for an unexpected and miraculous coming together, and tears of sorrow for the wasted years.

Nevertheless, the text employs the singular verb, thus expressing ambiguity as to precisely which one of the two wept. Rashi cites the Midrash, which tells us that it was Joseph who did the weeping; father Jacob was otherwise occupied in reciting: "Hear O Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is One."

What are our Sages trying to teach us? With all due respect to the moving words of the *Sh'ma* (the foundation of Jewish theology), is it not more logical to assume that it was the aged Jacob who wept? Indeed, this is the position of the Ramban. So, what is the message behind Rashi's interpretation?

For a better understanding, we should consider the next verse: "Now I can die," said Israel to Joseph. "I have seen your face and you are still alive" (Gen. 46:30).

Rashi may be alluding to the moment before death, when a person, if his mind is clear, is instructed to make a final confession before God, and to recite the *Sh'ma* as his last words.

Jacob is not a young man when he

is reunited with Joseph — he is 130 years old — but what the Midrash is teaching is that a year earlier, at the age of 129, he was not yet able to say that he could die; he would not have been ready to leave this world.

From a Jewish — and even human existential — perspective death is built into our very being, it is the necessary end of life. The tragedy, however, occurs when a person has left behind significant unfinished business.

When Jacob is told that Joseph has been killed, his entire world crumbled. The family of Abraham had only just begun its transformation into a nation. Each patriarch had produced and nurtured an heir — Abraham his Isaac, Isaac his Jacob. Jacob had seen in Joseph the future of God's promise to his forefathers, and it was in this son that he invested his entire being, sharing the secrets that had come down from his parents and grandparents, from the yeshiva of Shem and Eber. As a father, he certainly shuddered when Joseph's bloodstained coat was brought before him; but as the patriarch Israel, his despair was crushing, because the wild beast had destroyed not only a part of himself but the entire future of a nation.

Jacob's life and mission, so full of possibility and meaning as a result of the jewel he was given with the birth of Joseph, was now torn apart. And to make matters worse, Jacob's sleepless nights were tormented with the feeling that it was he himself who had sent his son on the fateful tragic mission of looking after his brothers' welfare.

Then behold! A famine brings the brothers to Egypt. Benjamin is sought out by the grand vizier, and the grand vizier reveals himself as Joseph. Joseph is alive, and Jacob can die.

He can die, because his spiritual heir is alive. He can die, because the

vision of continuity which he so painstakingly nurtured is not lost. Jacob can now die in peace, and so he recites the *Sh'ma*.

There is also a second reason why Jacob is ready to die, and why he recites the *Sh'ma*. The miracle of Joseph's resurrection, from the reality of a blood-stained coat of many colors to the fine linen cloak of the grand vizier of Egypt, resonates with the words of the Divine promise to Jacob at Beit-El Luz: "And God Almighty shall bless you, and make you fruitful, and multiply you that you may be an assembly of nations" (Gen. 28:4).

How often must Jacob have thought of that promise with irony? After all, his other sons were constantly fighting with each other. If I cannot unite my own family, he must have thought, how can I become the instrument for an assembly of nations?

But when Jacob sees with his own eyes what Joseph has achieved — how he has united his brothers, forging a family committed to unity and harmony, Jacob is awe-struck by the double miracle. This is the realization of Joseph's first dream of the united sheaves, the first part of the messianic dream. But in addition, he is not blind to what Joseph has wrought in Egypt, the greatest empire of the world. The second dream, in which the world, the cosmos, united under Joseph, has also been realized. How far is this from the ultimate promise of an assembly of nations who recognize the true Creator — the fulfillment of the messianic ideal!

Realizing this, Jacob is ready to die. His life is complete; he has produced an heir who has demonstrated the ability to realize the two sides of the messianic vision: Unity within Israel and unity of the world under God. What more appropriate words than those of the *Sh'ma*: "Hear O Israel, the Lord who is now our God will some day be recognized as the one God of the entire world."

Shabbat Shalom

Group events and giving charity go together

FUNDS
BEVERLEE BLACK

This week's "thank you" goes to the 75 members of the three choirs: The Ramatayim Men's Choir, Pirbei Efrat Boys' Choir, and The Zamar Chorale, who gave such pleasure to a packed audience at the Israel Museum last week, in celebration of Hanukkah, and as a contribution to The Jerusalem Post Toy Fund.

Organized by Richard Shavit-Tzion, the second annual evening of "A Gift of Music for Hanukkah" contributed over NIS 3,500 to our Toy Fund, and has helped us put more wonderful toys into the arms of many needy youngsters.

The idea of groups putting on worthwhile events and at the same time raising money for our three funds is more than welcome.

So thank you to ESRA Sharon Social Club who raised money for the Forsake Me Not Fund through an auction at their annual Hanukkah party, and to the British Olin Society (Sharon Region) who sent us NIS 2,000, following a very successful *Yom Kef*. These ideas can be taken up by all and have not yet sent in your donation for this year? Well? Help us give our totals that final boost, send our checks today to: The Jerusalem Post Funds, POB 81, 91000 Jerusalem.

Donors in the United States wishing to receive tax benefits, can send their donations to: Friends of The Jerusalem Post Funds, 211 E. 43rd Street, New York, NY 10017. Please designate in your letter to which fund you wish to donate.

FORSAKE ME NOT

NIS 1,000 Anon.
NIS 250 Proceeds of ESRA Sharon Social Club's Hamkka party auction held to benefit the fund.
NIS 500 E.G., Haifa. In loving memory of my husband, Willy, and my parents, Lony and Max - Z., Ramat Hasharon.
NIS 360 On the 17th yahrzeit of my parents, Fama and Wolf Shapiro — Esther Raftell, J'm.
NIS 350 in honor of the birthdays of Salome, Irma, Leon, Helen and Joan — all their good friends.
NIS 300 Michael Eichhorst, Kelowna, Canada.
NIS 250 Fred and Vida Simons, Ra'anana.
NIS 200 Anon. In loving memory of my dear parents — Barbara Koche, A. and M. Ben-Joshua, Omer. In loving memory of our parents, Minnie and Pierre Kigelman — Felise Davies and Malcolm Kayne.
NIS 180 Y. Dalegman, J'm.
NIS 150 Dr. K. Bruekner, J'm.
NIS 126 On the yahrzeit of our dear ones — Haim and Leah Hoffman, Kibbutz Shilon.
NIS 120 Rahel-Rita Aratz, Tel Aviv.
NIS 100 Jim Schor, Ra'anana. In honor of the 70th birthday of Professor Jasmond Birkhan of the Technion Medical School in Haifa — Zvi and Tselva Eran, Haifa. Temima Goldwasser, Kibbutz Gesher Haziv. In the memory of my parents, Benjamin and Ruth — Reva Teller, Tel Aviv, Moshe van Thyn, Nahariya. In memory of and in tribute to my beloved parents, Gladys and Harry Sabel — Pamela Lovat, Margalit Koenigsfeld, J'm. In memory of our dear Rossi — Lidi.
NIS 75 in loving...

Kathe and Bruno Silberstein — Inge Heineberg, Jo'berg, Alan Silberstein, Henderson, NV, Peter Silberstein, Ma'ale.
NIS 72 In honor of Judith and Ellis Wnyck on their 40th wedding anniversary — Barbara and Jeremy.
NIS 54 Welcome Goddesskint, from the Goddess and the Goddess.
NIS 50 In memory of my parents Frenkel — Rachel Search, Holon. In honor of the 90th birthday of Rabbi S.P. Toporoff: *ad mea ve'asrim* — Harold and June Dresner, Karmiel. Lina Manor, Sderot. In memory of my beloved parents, in memory of Rachel Klier, commemorating her fourth yahrzeit — Joseph Klier, Tel Aviv. In memory of my beloved husband — Alisa Sender, Rishon LeZion.
NIS 36 In loving memory of our parents — A. and M.K., Ashkelon.
NIS 25 Harvey and Phyllis Narrol, BeerSheva.
NIS 10 E. Rosenztein, Netanya.
\$1,000 In memory of Simon Jaglom on the centennial of his birthday — Simon and Marie Jaglom Foundation, New York.
\$200 Men's Club, Temple Beth Am, Margate, FL.
\$100 In honor of the David Angel Family — Barbara and Daniel Drach, Mountain Lakes, NJ. Paul Schatzberg, Annapolis, MD. Sylvia and Marc Pomezanitz, Pittsburgh.
\$84 In honor of the 84th birthday of Aunt Florence — Jackie and Jerry.
\$75 Warner Joseph, Pound Ridge, NY.
\$72 (4 x Ha!) in memory of my husband, George, parents: Rae and Joe Rubinstein, brothers: Gil and Mike Rubenstein — Florence Yudkina, Kibbutz Ketura.
\$60 In memory of Abe Cooper and Ethel Blitzer — Herbert and Donna Cooper, Federal Heights, CO.
\$50 In honor of the 47th anniversary of Bernard and Cecile Roth, Fairhawn, NJ. Sandra Berman, Plainfield, NJ. Harvey Herish, Raleigh, NC.
\$25 Raoul Kunstadt, NYC. Helen and Manny Eizelman, Los Angeles.
\$15 Ruth and Isaac Samson, Netanya.
\$18 Jim and Lois Mayer, Chadds Ford, PA. Harvey Winston, NYC. In honor of

our grandchildren, Susie and Aaron Yafia, Sammy and Randy Dukin — Grandpa and Grandpoo, Duxin, Westport, NJ. In memory of Herbert, Terry, Rita and Mary (Harvey Strutin, Saratoga).
\$13 From the Tzedaka box of Yoni and Talva Fanger-Veiler, Sunnyvale, CA.
\$10 Sue and Bill Spellberg, Skokie.
NEW DONATIONS
NIS 6,558
\$46,838
(other currencies converted into shekels)

PROGRESS TOTALS
NIS 331,879
\$468,338

TOY FUND

NIS 500 Julian Marsden, Beit Shemesh. Shimon Shestovitch Ltd., Tel Aviv.
NIS 300 Benur Shoham, Sede Nechemia. Michael Eichhorst, Kelowna, Canada.
NIS 250 In memory of our beloved Aliza (Lizzie) Weigl nee Book, on her 11th yahrzeit — Dr. H. Weigl, Raphael and Dinah. Fred and Vida Simons, Ra'anana.
NIS 200 Anon. Anon., Kfar Sava. Anon., J'm. Hanni and John Sulman, J'm. In loving memory of my dear parents — Barbara Koche, in loving memory of our parents, Minnie and Pierre Kigelman — Felise Davies and Malcolm Kayne.
NIS 150 Andrea and Eitan Madov, Kfar Verdram. Mr. and Mrs. I. and K. Ebo, Omer. In loving memory of my grandfather, Wolf Mihalovici — Z., Ramat Hasharon.
NIS 144 (8 x ha!) in lieu of Hanukkah gelt to our grandchildren Irit, Shira, Naama, Chana, Noga, Reuven, Natan, Elan — Lila and Benjamin Stein, J'm.
NIS 120 Y. Dalegman, J'm. Rahel-Rita Aratz, Tel Aviv.
NIS 108 In honor of my beloved Sivan's parents, Roche, in loving memory of our sixth Hanukkah birthday and in appreciation of our other four joys — Carole Schwartz, Tel Aviv. In loving memory of Rabbi Judah Miller, who loved children, and happy Hanukkah to grandchildren Yehonatan, Matan and Natani — Ben and Rose Rosen, Rochester, NY.
NIS 100 Olga Koenigsfelder, Haifa.
NIS 100 Rina Ruitch, Haifa. A. and M. Ben-Joshua, Omer. Temima Goldwasser,

Kibbutz Gesher Haziv. In memory of my parents, Benjamin and Ruth — Reva Teller, Tel Aviv. Moshe van Thyn, Nahariya. In honor of our eight wonderful grandchildren: Liron, Ori, Netta, Tamar, Amit, Tal, Hagai and Maya — Pamela and Werner Lovat, Margalit Koenigsfeld, J'm.
NIS 90 Anon. J'm. Idit, Soldier Lior, Eyal, Omer and Tal Vago.
NIS 72 In honor of Judith and Ellis Wnyck on their 40th wedding anniversary — Barbara and Jeremy.
NIS 50 Anon. In loving memory of Harvey Berger — Michelle Chabin, J'm. Kay Robins, Givatayim. In honor of Dr. Judith and Ellis Wnyck's 40th wedding anniversary — Dr. and Mrs. Jack Morgenstern, Rehovot. Paula Blum, Nahariya. In honor of the second birthday of great-grandson, First Eidan, in South Africa — Ruth Baleson and Josef Klier, Tel Aviv. In honor of my beloved grandchildren, Liran and Avishai — Grammy Lise.
NIS 36 In loving memory of our Aunt Edith, who enjoyed buying toys for children — A. and M.K., Ashkelon. Dr. R., Haifa.
NIS 35 In the name of my grandchildren and in memory of David — Nancy Fomier, Haifa.
NIS 25 Anon. To celebrate the bat mitzva of Eli Kahan. Mazal tov to Eli, Mimi, Shimon and all the family — Love, children and parents of the kindred, Harvey and Phyllis Narrol, BeerSheva.
\$1,000 In memory of Simon Jaglom on the centennial of his birthday — Simon and Marie Jaglom Foundation, NYC.
\$482 From the Tzedaka boxes of the children at Beit Torah Religious School, Sudbury, MA. Florence Yudin, Kibbutz Ketura. Harvey Winston, NYC. In memory of Herbert, Terry, Rita, Mary — Harvey Strutin, Saratoga, FL. In honor of my grandchildren: Susie and Aaron Yafia, Sammy and Randy Dukin — Grandpa and Grandpoo Dukin, Westport, NJ.
\$15 Ruth and Isaac Samson, Netanya.
\$13 From the Tzedaka Box of Yoni and Talva Fanger-Veiler, Sunnyvale, CA.
\$10 Richard DeSignor, Youngstown, OH. Sue and Bill Spellberg, Skokie.
FFr.400 In honor of the 50th wedding anniversary of Rudolph and Gerda Haas

— daughters Hedy and Polly. DMSO Rolf Endelbrock, Koln, Germany.
NEW DONATIONS
NIS 6,292
\$3,948

PROGRESS TOTALS
NIS 179,977
\$11,940

WELCOME HOME FUND

NIS 500 Anon.
NIS 300 Michael Eichhorst, Kelowna, Canada.
NIS 250 Fred and Vida Simons, Ra'anana.
NIS 200 Anon. In loving memory of our parents, Minnie and Pierre Kigelman — Felise Davies and Malcolm Kayne.
NIS 120 Rahel-Rita Aratz, Tel Aviv.
NIS 100 In memory of, and in tribute to my beloved parents, Gladys and Harry Sabel — Pamela Lovat, Temima Goldwasser, Kibbutz Gesher Haziv.
NIS 50 In memory of our beloved families, many of them killed in the Shoah — Ruth Baleson and Josef Klier, Tel Aviv.
NIS 25 Harvey and Phyllis Narrol, BeerSheva.
NIS 10 E. Rosenztein, Netanya.
\$1,000 In memory of Simon Jaglom on the centennial of his birthday — Simon and Marie Jaglom Foundation, NYC.
\$200 Ralph Sternblitz, Brooklyn.
\$100 In honor of the Barry Schlesinger Family — Barbara and Daniel Drench, Mountain Lakes, NJ. Sandra Berman, Plainfield, NJ. Harvey Herish, Raleigh, NC.
\$36 Twice *Ha!* from Gideon Tittel. In honor of our daughter Miriam Rachel and her fiancé, Leon Gabriel of London — Dr. and Mrs. Bernard Kramer, Wallingford, CT.
\$30 Doug Herbert, Euclid, OH.
\$25 In memory of my mother, Lee Woodrow — Diane Romm, Bellmore, NY. Raoul Kunstadt, NYC. Helen and Manny Eizelman, Los Angeles.
\$21 Frances Darwick, Bridgeport, CT.
\$20 In loving memory of a beloved father and grandfather, Rabbi Abraham Horvitz — Judy Bernstein, Brockton, MA. Geoff Landesman, Greenville, OH.
\$18 Mr. and Mrs. Michael Kori, Brookline, MA. Rabbi and Mrs. Stephen Einstein, Fountain Valley, CA. Harold and Renee Ginsberg, J'm. *Ha!* in honor of grandchildren Gai and Adva Yudin at Kibbutz Ketura. Geoffrey Mishkin in Sudbury, MA. Florence Yudin, Kibbutz Ketura. Harvey Winston, NYC. In memory of Herbert, Terry, Rita, Mary — Harvey Strutin, Saratoga, FL. In honor of my grandchildren: Susie and Aaron Yafia, Sammy and Randy Dukin — Grandpa and Grandpoo Dukin, Westport, NJ.
\$15 Ruth and Isaac Samson, Netanya.
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\$10 Richard DeSignor, Youngstown, OH. Sue and Bill Spellberg, Skokie.
FFr.400 In honor of the 50th wedding anniversary of Rudolph and Gerda Haas

— daughters Hedy and Polly. DMSO Rolf Endelbrock, Koln, Germany.
NEW DONATIONS
NIS 1,961
\$1,589

PROGRESS TOTALS
NIS 48,684
\$19,615

Getting an angle on a flash in the pan

GRAPEVINE
GREER FAY CASHMAN

ALTHOUGH he has plenty of political fish to fry, US Ambassador Martin Indyk is almost as interested in the finned and scaled variety - especially at mealtimes. When Jewish National Fund chairman Moshe Rivlin in the course of a tour of the Negev took him to Kibbutz Mashabei Sadeh and presented him with a St. Peter's fish bred in the Negev, Indyk, no slouch, went angling for another and proved to Rivlin that the true art of diplomacy is being a good fisherman. Needless to say, the fish ended up on Rivlin and Indyk's lunch plates.

whelming, did not rob him of his instinct to capture it for posterity. Seated with his family on one side of the Shiseido Lounge in Tel Aviv, Eshet, despite the presence of many press photographers, clicked away with a miniature camera while on the other side of the lounge Katsumi Takemori, executive director of Shiseido's International Business Department, also caught the moment through the lens of his miniature camera. Pony-tailed Zviki Eshet, who like his father was a photographer before he became a business manager, recalled that only 10 years ago, when Mula Center was first launched, they used to go to the Tel Aviv central bus station to buy cheap cosmetics in bulk that they transferred to small plastic containers. "Now, we're the agents for the largest cosmetics company in Japan and the fourth largest in the world."



Ambassador Indyk and Moshe Rivlin examine the catch.

ONE OF Indyk's predecessors in office, Thomas Pickering, was instrumental in resolving the thorny issue of the Jewish Agency's accreditation in Russia, where he currently serves as US ambassador. Jewish Agency chairman Avraham Burg has received a letter pointing out that "special recognition should go to Ambassador Pickering." The signatory is a gentleman by the name of Bill Clinton.

ATTENDING A luncheon hosted in her honor by Naracy Kröll, wife of the Austrian ambassador, was Reuma Weizman, who was serenaded with Austrian and Bavarian Christmas carols by members of the Vienna State Opera. Weizman was charmed, but not nearly as much as fellow guest Renata Wallau, the wife of the German ambassador, for whom the music struck a note of nostalgia.

GUESTS ATTENDING the impressive product presentation news conference and brunch to celebrate the union between Israel's Mula Center and the famous Japanese Shiseido cosmetics conglomerate, chorused "kanpai" rather than "lehaiim" as they downed their sake. For ex-kibbutznik turned fashion photographer, turned image builder Mula Eshet, who chairs the board of Mula Center and Shiseido Israel, the event, though almost over-

In expressing her appreciation for Kröll's hospitality, Weizman noted that for many years, Herzliya Pituah had been her second home. In 1940, when Herzliya was just sand, her parents purchased a small plot in what is now Herzliya Pituah to escape the scorching Jerusalem summers for a breath of sea air. Their friends mocked them for buying a piece of sand, Weizman recalled, little real-

izing what Herzliya would become... NEVER MIND his special powers, some of which he suspects he received from distant relative Sigmund Freud, what several of the women attending a press conference given by paranormalist Uri Geller at Jerusalem's Holiday Inn Crownie Plaza wondered about later was his elixir of youth. Geller, who turns 50 next week, bears no signs of wear and tear. His face and neck are firm and unlined and his body slim and agile. After completing his army service nearly 30 years ago, he worked briefly as a model, and from the look of him, he could easily fit into that line of work again should the fancy take him.

HOW CAN it help but be a beautiful baby considering who its parents are? Local super model Yael Abecassis and her husband, model and actor Lior Miller, have joined the ranks of expectant parents. The supremely happy Abecassis is three months pregnant.

KNOWN TO be one of Lady Luck's favorites, professional gambler Ezra Tissona is willing to share his good fortune with fellow Israelis and has produced a video cassette on how to win at blackjack. His tips may be a little late for would-be gamblers planning a vacation in Turkey. According to reports, Turkey's present regime is to close down all casinos. It will be interesting to see what effect that has on tourism. Meanwhile, there are legalized blackjack tables close to home in Tabá and in Cairo.

FORMER PRIME minister Yitzhak Shamir, interviewed on Israeli Radio about the membership in Lehi of Yusuf Abu Ghosh, said that it had been easy for Abu Ghosh (whose most lasting claim to fame was spiriting Genia Cohen from the clutches of the British authorities) to align himself with Lehi, because both Arabs and Jews were interested at the time in getting the British out of the country. Asked whether Abu Ghosh also had a hand in the assassination of Count

Bernadotte, Shamir said he didn't know. But when interviewer Arye Golán persisted with the pointed remark that Shamir himself was involved in the killing, Shamir sidestepped the issue with "Ah, that's another story."

TIMING IS everything. The warning by Egyptian ambassador Mohammed Bassionny that he might be recalled if the peace process remains stalled came on the day Zvi Mazel, Israel's new envoy to Egypt, left for Cairo.

AS A public relations executive, Jerusalemite Jill Marie Reinach is no stranger to celebrities. But if she thought she was getting off the celebrity circuit when she went back to Miami to visit with family and friends, she was mistaken. Her mother, Judy Reinach, who is a mover and shaker with the Women's Emergency Network, had been delegated to pick up Olivia Goldsmith, best-selling author of *The First Wives Club*, for a gala benefit at which Goldsmith was the star attraction. Later, all three went out to dinner at Miami's Giacosta Restaurant, where Goldsmith divulged that she was returning to Los Angeles to complete the screenplay for *Marrying Mom*, soon to be viewed by Paramount. *The First Wives Club* has become a smash-hit movie in the US and is about to be shown in Israel. Goldsmith was very interested in how it would be received here and asked Reinach to send her the local reviews.

JOINING THE ranks of film folk who've invested in gastronomy is British actor Michael Caine, who opted for the popular Miami art-deco venue of South Beach for his eatery, which will be known as the South Beach Brasserie. The opening date has yet to be announced.

IT'S BEEN a great year for Madonna. First there was motherhood, then the premiere of *Evita* and now speculation she has a good shot at an Oscar for her performance.

AFTER A long absence, Debbie Reynolds - who was once married to Eddie Fisher who dumped her for Elizabeth Taylor - is returning to the set.

Reynolds, 63, has been managing a casino hotel in Los Angeles. But in her case, the odds seem to have been stacked against the house which made Reynolds decide that money-wise, the movies might just be a better proposition.

A six-month ride through virtual reality

THE WEEK THAT WAS
MICHAEL YUDELMAN

A special edition of Channel 2's *Uvda* ("Fact") was devoted to assessing the performance of Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu after six months in office. It turned out to be a scathing judgment.

Not one of the heavyweight journalists in the studio, including Dan Margalit, Razi Barkai, Immanuel Rosen and Ze'ev Schiff, seemed able to find a single positive aspect of the new leader. Health Minister Tzahi Hanegbi, who tried valiantly to defend Netanyahu, could shed no new light on the enigma - as the panelists called Netanyahu - nor could he decipher his direction or policy. The debate inevitably plunged into the malfunctions of the week: The crisis of credibility between the prime minister and the head of the General Security Service - and which of them was telling the truth, the announced strengthening of the settlements, the rift with the Arab neighbors, Bill Clinton, Europe and the world, and the ongoing saga of Hebron.

The Labor leadership also marked the occasion with a news conference to summarize the malfunctioning of the government.

All that talk about "crawling towards a national unity government" and "defeatism" was buried as a Labor leader full of fire and verve led the tirade against Netanyahu. Shimon Peres, MKs Haim Ramon and Ephraim Sneh, Professor Shlomo Ben-Ami and Nissim Zivili declared an offensive to influence the Knesset and public opinion, with the aim of numbering the government's days.

Peres was the first to admit that verbal assaults and criticism, or even getting people on the streets, would not be enough to topple the government. The meeting did, however, produce some catchy slogans, displaying a creative talent among Labor MKs sadly lacking in their election campaign.

Sneh said "instead of a secure peace, Netanyahu is securing failure." Ramon called Netanyahu a "security hazard," while Ben-Ami called Netanyahu "a ticking time bomb heading for disaster." MK Uzi Baram demonstrated more flair in the Knesset the following day: "Netanyahu is a traffic accident on the road to peace."

BIBI BLUES
The Likud does not like all this talk of doom and gloom.

Like their prime minister, who continues to sell a rosy vision of peace with Syria within four years and of Israel as one of the richest countries in the world, Likud leaders take up the complacent theme. When challenged with facts, they bemoan the "terrible legacy" left by the previous government.

Perhaps they should look at the monthly "national mood" survey broadcast last week on Israel Radio's *Iyvan Aher* ("Another Matter") before assuming it's all a Labor-and-media conspiracy. No less than 67.7 percent of those surveyed said they fear for the future of the country, 40.6 percent are worried by the security situation and the state of foreign relations.

The survey, conducted by Shvakim Panorama's director Yossi Vadana, indicated that 52 percent of the public believe the

state is headed in the wrong direction, 32 percent don't believe the government "very much" and 28.9 percent don't believe it at all.

Some 62.1 percent are afraid of war breaking out, and 50.7 percent want a national unity government.

A colossal 70.6 percent believe the country is riddled with ethnic discrimination and social division. The number of people thinking of leaving increased to 14.9 percent from 7.3 the previous month. That adds up to 750,000 people.

NANNYGATE II
Netanyahu's family keeps popping up with monotonous regularity on television or in the Knesset.

This week, the new Dutch nanny hired by the Prime Minister's Office for the kiddos featured in the widely televised "canal vacation" in Mitzpe Ramon last weekend, and ended up in the House.

Eyebrows are raised at the Netanyahu's penchant for hiring foreign nannies with no Hebrew. It prompted MK Naomli Chazan, of Meretz, to put down a parliamentary question to the prime minister about his household employing a non-resident maid.

Had she a valid work permit at the time she was hired by the prime minister? Since the Prime Minister's Office is paying her wages, couldn't it find an Israeli maid or nanny worthy of the post? In other words, since unemployment is rising and since taxpayers are paying for it, could the prime minister not find throughout the land of Israel a nice Jewish girl to do the job?

"And how will the prime minister's children get guidance in their prayers like 'Master of the Universe' (*Adon Olam*), when they spend most of their time with a Christian nanny?" queried Chazan.

THE FAT AND THE LEAN
As the cabinet is agonizing over the budget cuts - should we cut child allocations or only medical services, or perhaps just raise some taxes and be done with it - a cheery lift for the national mood has emerged.

The residents of development towns and fired textile workers, for instance, will be pleased to learn that while they groan under minimum wages or unemployment pay, state allocations for haredi "conversion" institutes have increased in the past six months by 28 percent to NIS 50 million. "This is shocking," exclaimed Labor MK Ophir Pines. "It appears each one of us is paying to finance our children's conversion."

The Religious Affairs Ministry budget alone came to NIS 1.2 billion this year and will rise to NIS 1.4 billion next year, but the allocations for religious institutions from all the ministries come to NIS 5.25 billion.

Then there are the NIS 900 million allocated for the settlements in the territories, and another half a billion shekels a year for priority development regions.

Even the Knesset's own budget will be 28 percent (NIS 14.5 million) higher than the Treasury's budget proposal, due chiefly to Knesset members raising their own salaries by 33 percent and adding other generous benefits.

SRULIK by DOSH

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CRYPTIC CROSSWORD

ACROSS

- Foreign paper overused in barber's shop? (6)
- Gran teas off in drive apart (8)
- Tar transported elsewhere (6)
- Set off for school within appointed time (8)
- Sunday child in slide out of control (4)
- Reversible plane (5)
- Cork to received favourable mention? (4)
- Inhabits pole turning xenophobic (12)
- Change oysters for other things one can choose from (12)
- State bible presented to old women (4)
- His two sixes said to be unlucky? (5)

DOWN

- But not necessarily vessel on which ensign serves (8)
- Georgia's delicate Victorian brilliance (8)
- Split payment (4)
- One who works on flats has row with constable? (5-7)
- Chamber for Othello in retirement (4)

25 Ruin a French party (4)

26 England's openers in strange things once a week (8)

29 C-castles for dishonest people (6)

30 Advances total sum (8)

31 Like mushrooms from North American gulf? (6)

7 Tale spun in city, in elegant style (6)

8 Drive wild green yacht at first (6)

11 Home she medicated liberally (4-8)

15 Air in church blows lamps out! (5)

16 Tone-lowering characters in apartments (6)

18 Plainchant heard in late service (8)

19 Adopting cause, Poles settled round America (6)

21 How air-passenger consumes everything put before him? (4-2)

22 Produced nothing in the country (6)

26 Measure tube (4)

27 Father to the French, mother to the Germans? (4)

SOLUTIONS

YESTERDAY'S QUICK SOLUTION

ACROSS: 1 Wore, 3 Criminal, 9 Bamba, 10 Puritan, 11 Yarn, 13 Tumbler, 14 Dealer, 16 Alover, 18 Gorrilla, 20 Sed, 22 Defeat, 23 Topaz, 25 Dilatory, 28 Away.

DOWN: 1 Wordy, 2 Row, 4 Repeat, 5 Marital, 6 Notorious, 7 Linings, 8 Gait, 12 Mascular, 14 Baghdad, 15 Earnest, 17 Ulster, 19 Alto, 21 Dizzy, 24 Pew.

QUICK CROSSWORD

ACROSS

- Bizet opera (6)
- Flatfish (6)
- Burlesque, parody (7)
- French impressionist painter (5)
- Golf club (4)
- Deride, gibe at (5)
- Wanderer (5)
- Impetuous (4)
- Cut corners (5)
- Unlawful (7)
- Six-legged creature (6)
- Unmarried (6)

DOWN

- Command (7)
- Vivid red colour (7)
- Criminal (5)
- US college graduate (7)
- Demon (5)
- Breakwater (5)
- Pain-relieving substance (9)
- Dense (7)
- Suitcases (7)
- Refuge (7)
- On the move (5)
- Slightly drunk (5)
- Talent, elegance (5)

CALLING ALL YOU HANDICRAFTERS

The Jerusalem Post Pessah Handicrafts Fair will take place on Wednesday, April 23, 1997, at the Ratanana Sports Center, next to Metro West High School.

If you create top quality handicrafts and wish to book a stand at the fair, please contact Beverlee Black, Director of The Jerusalem Post Funds, Tel. 02-625-3986.

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WHEN THE M.S.E. FELL, SOME FORTUNES ROSE

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BUSINESS & FINANCE

Friday, December 20, 1996

PA cellular phone tender deadline extended

DAVID HARRIS

FACED with demand far higher than originally anticipated, the Palestinian Authority has extended the deadline for initial tender applications to provide cellular telephone services in the territories.

Having advertised the tender a week ago, the deadline expired Wednesday.

"We have decided to push the deadline forward 10 days," PA Communications Ministry undersecretary Zuber Al-Laham said yesterday. "We had complaints from a number of interested companies that a week was too little notice."

Palestine Telecommunications Company (Paltel), which last month signed a pact with the PA making it the sole supplier of telecom services in the territories, reported a large demand for the tender brochure. "This is one of our main projects," said company engineer Mutassem Attili. "I can't say how many companies have expressed interest, but it goes into double figures."

The company has also agreed to supply data and satellite communications, Internet facilities and public pay phones throughout the territories.

tion of the necessary equipment. Additionally, there will be room to negotiate the possible purchase of shares in the operating company.

The network will be implemented in several phases over 18 months. The first area to be included in the network, six months after the tender is awarded, will be Gaza and a limited area of the West Bank, followed by all the West Bank cities.

Paltel is also preparing the ground work for the extension of land-based telephone lines in the territories. "Currently there is a large shortage of lines," said Attili. "We will soon be issuing a tender to extend our services." This follows an agreement with the PA to increase the number of lines within the next few years.

Paltel hopes to have 250,000 customers within three years. "In the long term the company will strive to create an entirely independent public communications network," company director-general Mohammed Mustafa said recently.

The company has also agreed to supply data and satellite communications, Internet facilities and public pay phones throughout the territories.

Sheves denies bribery allegations

GALIT LIPKIS BECK

SHIMON Sheves, who headed the Prime Minister's Office under Yitzhak Rabin, yesterday denied bribery allegations.

"I have never been engaged in the energy field, neither in my former position as director-general of the Prime Minister's Office nor at any other time," Sheves said, in response to reports that the Securities Authority is investigating allegations that he received benefits from publicly traded companies in return for helping them win concessions in the energy field.

Sheves headed the Prime Minister's Office from Rabin's assumption of office in 1992 until his abrupt resignation shortly before Rabin's killing.

The investigation, which is reportedly in the preliminary stage, is based on documents and information from 1994. Investigators are looking into suspicions that Sheves received inside information from Avi Dotan, managing director of Petroleum and Energy.

According to *Ha'aretz*, Sheves and Dotan have already been questioned by the Securities Authority. A Securities Authority spokesman refused to confirm or deny the report.

A source close to the Securities Authority told *The Jerusalem Post*

that other politicians are suspected of accepting benefits while serving as civil servants in the previous government.

The Securities Authority, which serves as the financial market's legal watchdog, has, among others, the authority to conduct investigations on insider trading and benefits received in connection with securities traded on the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange.

The Securities Law defines inside information as data on developments in a company, whether currently under way or expected to occur in the future, or any other information on a company which is likely to lead to a significant change in a share's value.

The Authority reportedly suspects Sheves helped boost the stock value of several companies traded on the exchange by helping them get contracts in the energy field. As a result, the company's major shareholders reaped big profits while Sheves allegedly received a "benefit."

"This is a false charge. I have never engaged in these things, I have never manipulated shares, I never had inside information and have never been involved in share

dealings. The whole thing is absurd, ridiculous and sad," said Sheves.

Published reports claim the Authority suspects inside information on petroleum transactions and drills was transferred to and from Sheves's office and the state-owned Petroleum and Energy. The information was passed on to public companies which buy from the company refined oil products and use its services while pumping and storing crude.

Petroleum and Energy provides infrastructure services for the import, export, shipment and storage of crude oil and refined energy products. The company, which plays a major role in the energy sector, owns several crude storage and refinement terminals.

Avi Dotan had previously served in a number of high-ranking police positions, including head of operations headquarters at the Ministry of Police and head of the Police's Intelligence Branch.

Asked to comment on his relationship with Dotan, Sheves said: "We have been friends for many years but were not in contact in the framework of my previous position."

Dotan also denied yesterday the allegations. "We are talking about a false, malicious and evil charge," he said.

Analysts: Peru crisis will affect foreign investment

LONDON (Reuters) - Foreign investors, still reeling from news of the ongoing hostage stand-off in Lima, say the events mark an increase in Peruvian risk and expect little relief for markets scared by the crisis.

Negotiations were continuing yesterday for the release of some 484 people held prisoner by heavily armed guerrillas who stormed a reception at the Japanese envoy's residence in Lima, demanding the release of imprisoned comrades.

Yesterday foreign investors were assessing the damage wrought across Peru's debt and equity markets and bracing themselves for more pain.

"It's like a slap in the face," said Ondine Smulders, Latin American strategist at HSBC James Capel. "Investors have been bearish on Peru for the last two months and this certainly will not help."

One Latin American fund manager at a major asset management firm here said the crisis was already hurting investor perceptions of

Peruvian investments. "This is a setback for Peru generally because it increases uncertainty over whether Peru is going to degenerate into terrorist activity once again," she said. "It seriously increases the perception of risk and uncertainty over Peru in the minds of international investors."

The Peruvian stock market plunged more than 4 percent on Wednesday, while stocks listed abroad in the form of American Depositary Receipts (ADRs) took a heavy beating.

Investors unaccustomed to Latin American volatility and who bought Telefonica del Peru shares after its 1994 privatization, on Wednesday bailed out of its ADRs which lost 6.5% amid shock over the embassy siege.

The news also put pressure on Peru's Luz del Sur after the government's sale this month of its 30% stake. Peruvian debt prices too took a body blow. Its rescheduled "Brady" bonds plummeted up to two points in New York trading and

came under fresh pressure early in London.

The fund manager said she would not be a buyer of Peruvian stocks even at their current low levels, though some investors may be tempted depending on how the crisis develops.

Smulders said that while she was overweight on Peru she would not change her recommended weightings in a Latin American portfolio on the back of the current events, though she might consider a buy recommendation over the next few days.

The Latin American fund manager said how President Alberto Fujimori handled the crisis would be crucial for his standing both at home and abroad. "It depends very much on how he deals with it," she said. "I don't think he can afford to be soft—that would signal a return to the bad old days and to the specter of terrorism." Such a scenario would deter foreign direct investment and erode corporate profits due to increased spending on security.

Hotels expect tourism slump to persist

HAIM SHAPIRO

THE slump in tourism, which has beset the country for most of this year, is expected to continue through the first quarter of 1997, according to Avi Rosental, director of the Hotel Association.

Rosental reckons the first signs of recovery can only be expected toward Pessah, when hoteliers are hoping for an upswing in the Jewish and Christian pilgrim markets.

The national average for hotel occupancy in November was 60 percent, a drop of 13% in comparison with the same month last year, according to the association. However, it also noted that in the course of the year an additional 1,700 hotel rooms had been

opened, adding 5% to capacity.

There were 695,000 bed-nights by foreign tourists, 32% less than during November 1995. The drop was felt throughout the country, with the greatest decrease in kibbutz guesthouses, which had 39% fewer tourist guest-nights. Jerusalem had a 31% fall in occupancy by foreign tourists.

The overall decrease in foreign tourist stays for January through November was only 6%, because of the sharp increase in tourism during the first months of the year.

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Investors who read *The Marber Report*, the weekly newsletter published by international financial expert Brian Marber, were told on December 2 that the bear market of the London FTSE Stock Index was imminent, and he recommended selling the index short.

The December FTSE index, which had reached a high on December 2 of 4065, has since dropped to below 3850. Had you followed Brian Marber's advice, you could have potentially made over 17% return on your money in less than 2 weeks!

In recent months, Brian Marber has also accurately predicted the movement of gold and British pound futures, among others.

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BITS & BYTES
JENNIFER FRIEDLIN

Bank Hapoalim announces Internet site: Bank Hapoalim has established a website that can be accessed at www.bankhapoalim.co.il. Visitors can receive information about the bank, service information for tourists and residents of Israel and data about the Israeli economy.

BIRD to invest \$11m. in 16 new projects: The Israel-US Binational Research and Development Foundation recently approved an \$11 million investment as its 50% cost-share in 16 new projects between US and Israeli high-tech companies. The projects are in all areas of technology but communications accounts for 30% and medical for 20%. The American partners include Siemens Medical, Packard Bell and SmithKline Beecham. In 1996 BIRD invested \$21m. in 39 projects. Projects previously approved by the foundation yielded \$338m. in direct sales in 1996.

EDS-Unigraphics to market virtual reality program: EDS-Unigraphics will market a program developed by Division that allows programmers to create 2D and 3D virtual reality graphics within seconds.

Geotek and Hyundai Electronics announce deal: Geotek Technologies, Inc., the equipment arm of Geotek Communications, Inc., (Nasdaq: GOTK) has announced that it has finalized an agreement with Hyundai Electronics Industries Co., Ltd. to assist in the manufacture and supply of FHMA-related equipment to the Korean market. Under the terms of the agreement, Hyundai will incorporate Geotek's technology in its mobile terminal equipment. Geotek, which has operations in Israel, develops telecommunications products and wireless communications systems based on digital technology.

LOGAL launches products on new network: LOGAL Educational Software & Systems Ltd. (Nasdaq: LOGLF) recently announced that it will start operating a subscription service for its new educational network on January 15. By logging into www.logal.net, students will be able to access the company's simulation-based science and mathematics software products.

Net-Scene releases virtual seminar software: Net-Scene of Herzliya has announced the release of its virtual seminar Intranet software especially designed to help drivers improve their behavior on the road. Geared for companies that employ many drivers, such as bus and trucking companies, the technology provides employers with a way to educate their staff. Net-Scene's product line can be viewed on the Internet at www.net-scene.com. Net-Scene recently reported that it raised \$3m. in a private placement from undisclosed sources.

RADVision develops suite of communication products: RADVision has announced the development of a full range of H.323 products that will enable videoconferencing vendors and system integrators to adopt and offer videoconferencing solutions to users. RADVision (www.radvision.com), a member of the Tel Aviv-based RAD Group, develops and markets interconnecting solutions for videoconferencing.

SanDisk opens design center in Israel: SanDisk Corporation (Nasdaq: SNDK), the world's leading supplier of flash data storage products, has announced that it will establish a design center in Tefen which will go into operation on December 24. The center, which will be staffed by six design engineers, will utilize SanDisk flash semiconductor technology to design flash storage cards.

CSX raises bid for Conrail by \$870m.

NEW YORK (Reuters) - Conrail Inc. and CSX Corp. raised the stakes yesterday in the bidding war for Conrail, amending their \$8.5 billion merger agreement to provide Conrail shareholders with another \$870 million.

The new agreement would give Conrail shareholders another \$16 per share, payable in CSX convertible preferred shares, as part of the stock portion of the cash and stock transaction.

CSX and Conrail are battling with Norfolk Southern Corp., which has bid \$10b., or \$110 per share in cash, for Conrail.

An industry analyst estimated the value of the new CSX-Conrail deal at \$104 per share, or \$9.5b.

Norfolk Southern Corp. said after the amended deal was announced that it remained determined to acquire Conrail, was studying its options and would respond yesterday or today.

Conrail has rejected Norfolk Southern's offer, contending that a transaction with CSX is a better fit.

Other aspects of the Conrail-CSX agreement are unchanged. They include \$110 per share for 40 percent of the outstanding Conrail shares and 1.85619 shares of CSX common stock for each Conrail share.

The proposed merger of Conrail and CSX, first announced on October 15, would create a giant that would dominate the railfreight industry on the East Coast.

In early trading on the New York Stock Exchange, Conrail shares traded at \$100.375, up \$1.375, and CSX traded at \$44.40, up \$1.25. Norfolk Southern traded at \$86.375, down 12.5 cents, also on the NYSE.

CSX and Conrail also established a voting trust to permit payment to Conrail shareholders by 1997. The companies said a Conrail shareholder meeting slated for December 23 would be rescheduled for January 17 and the CSX tender offer would be extended to January 22.

The revised pact prohibits Conrail and CSX from entering into an agreement with a third party until December 31, 1998. The previous transaction set a July 1997 date. "In every respect this merger holds great potential and clearly offers the best result for Conrail. This amendment to the merger agreement reaffirms the decision of the Conrail board that it is not willing to agree to the sale of Conrail to Norfolk Southern," Conrail chairman David LeVan said in a statement.

ISRAELI MONEY MARKETS

Patrah (foreign currency deposit rates) (11.9.96)

Currency (deposit term)	3 MONTHS	6 MONTHS	12 MONTHS
U.S. dollar (\$250,000)	4.750	5.000	5.375
Pound sterling (£100,000)	3.875	4.000	4.580
German mark (DM 200,000)	1.825	1.825	2.125
Swiss franc (SF 200,000)	0.825	0.750	1.000

(Rates vary higher or lower than indicated according to deposit)

Shekel Foreign Exchange Rates* (19.12.96)

CHECKS AND TRANSFERS	BUY	SELL	BANKNOTES	BUY	SELL	Rep. Rates**
Currency basket	3.6263	3.8889	—	—	—	3.8594
U.S. dollar	3.2503	3.3028	3.19	3.26	—	3.2780
German mark	2.0876	2.1213	2.05	2.15	—	2.1081
Pound sterling	5.43288	5.5185	5.33	5.80	—	5.4890
French franc	0.6179	0.6279	0.60	0.64	—	0.6287
Japanese yen (100)	2.8491	2.8951	2.80	2.94	—	2.8782
Dutch florin	1.8801	1.8802	1.82	1.82	—	1.8782
Swiss franc	2.4334	2.4727	2.39	2.51	—	2.4576
Swedish krona	0.4738	0.4815	0.48	0.49	—	0.4782
Norwegian krona	0.5021	0.5102	0.48	0.52	—	0.5088
Denish krone	0.5458	0.5548	0.53	0.57	—	0.5510
Finnish mark	0.6988	0.7111	0.68	0.73	—	0.7084
Canadian dollar	2.3722	2.4105	2.33	2.45	—	2.3928
Australian dollar	2.6770	2.6188	2.63	2.68	—	2.6028
S. African rand	0.8958	0.7071	0.68	0.71	—	0.7028
Belgian franc (10)	1.0130	1.0294	0.98	1.05	—	1.0228
Austrian schilling (10)	2.9888	3.0147	2.91	3.06	—	2.9951
Italian lire (1000)	2.1245	2.1588	2.08	2.19	—	2.1435
Jordanian dinar	4.5200	4.8300	4.52	4.83	—	4.6548
Egyptian pound	0.9200	1.0100	0.92	1.00	—	1.0182
ECU	4.0214	4.0863	—	—	—	4.0590
Irish punt	5.3838	5.4809	5.30	5.58	—	5.4382
Spanish peseta (100)	2.4797	2.5187	2.43	2.58	—	2.5032

*These rates vary according to bank. **Bank of Israel.
SOURCE: BANK LEUMI

Key Representative Rates
US DollarNIS 3.2780 +0.03%
SterlingNIS 5.4690 -0.20%

INFLATION MARKETS

New York market indexes
Dow Jones Industrial Average 11,811.11 +158.87
S&P 500 1,125.88 +15.11

Other stock market indexes
FTSE 100 4,013.3 +35.1
Nikkei 22,500.0 +115.0

Israeli stocks in US

NYSE / AMEX / NASDAQ / OTC
Telcel 11.25 +0.15
Gazit 11.25 +0.15
Gazit 11.25 +0.15

INFLATION MARKETS

Dollar crossrates (US)
Euro 1.6363 +0.0002
Sterling 1.7534 +0.0001

Labor rates
3 months 5.4900 -0.0012
6 months 5.4900 -0.0012

Foreign financial data courtesy of CommStock Trading Ltd.

US commodities
Gold 371.1 -0.2
Silver 4.85 -0.04

US commodities

London commodities
Gold 371.1 -0.2
Silver 4.85 -0.04

Spot market metals (US)

Copper 38.1 -0.2
Zinc 4.8 -0.01

New York metal futures

Gold 371.1 -0.2
Silver 4.85 -0.04

London metal futures

Gold 371.1 -0.2
Silver 4.85 -0.04

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Gazit 11.25 +0.15

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Bank Hapoalim 100.00 +0.5

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Bank Hapoalim 100.00 +0.5

INTERNATIONAL STOCK PRICES

NEW YORK
Alcoa 27.125 +0.125
Amgen 42.875 +0.125
Arista 10.000 +0.125

Shares rise, snapping run of profit-taking

TEL AVIV STOCK MARKET

DAN GERSTENFELD
Two-Sided Index 206.45 +1.57%
Maof Index 215.28 +1.64%

SHARES closed broadly higher on increased turnover yesterday after three days of profit-taking, dealers said. The benchmark Two-Sided Index rose 1.57 percent, or 3.19 points, to 206.45 on all-share turnover of NIS 92 million against NIS 72m. Wednesday. The Maof Index gained 1.64% to 215.28.

European bourses make big gains on US data

WORLD MARKET ROUNDUP

LONDON (Reuters) - European bourses made healthy gains yesterday as a drop in the US trade deficit lifted Wall Street, delivering its third rally in as many days. On currency markets, the better-than-expected US trade figures also pulled the dollar up half a penny against the mark. But late profit-taking wiped out most of the advance.

Dow soars 127 points

WALL STREET REPORT

NEW YORK (AP) - Stocks shot higher yesterday, as the Dow Jones industrial average enjoyed its second-biggest point gain ever. The market was led by consumer and financial issues, as bond prices were driven sharply higher on weak economic data and strong demand for a Treasury auction of 5-year notes.

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Private eye gives Nazi tapes to Canadian police

ROBERT SARNER and STEVE LEIBOWITZ MONTREAL

PRIVATE investigator Steve Rambam last night handed over to Canadian law enforcement officials tapes of secretly recorded conversations with four suspected Nazi war criminals living in Canada.

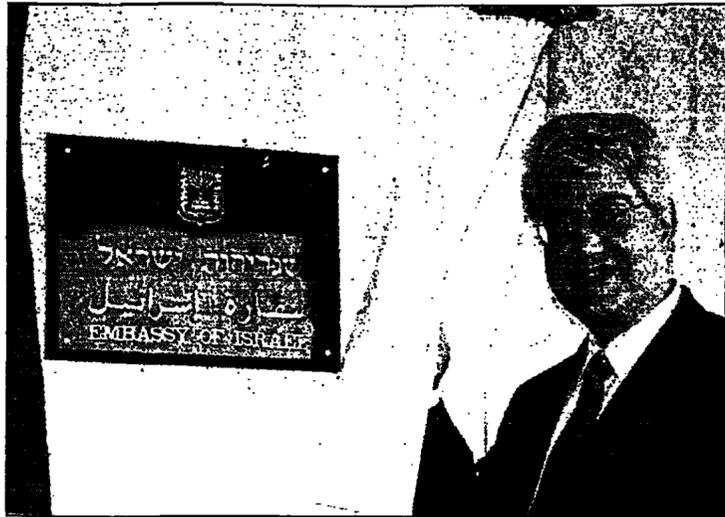
Rambam gave the evidence to Royal Canadian Mounted Police agents Andre R. Deneault and Rob Enukal at the offices of the Canadian Jewish Congress in Montreal. The tapes were part of several hundred pages of evidence turned over during a meeting attended by CJC leaders and Efraim Zuroff, head of the Israel desk of the Simon Wiesenthal Center.

Also at the meeting with the Mounted Police investigators were reporters Robert Sarner and Steve Leibowitz, who had joined Rambam in his undercover investigation and whose findings were published last month in *The Jerusalem Post* Magazine.

Following the meeting was a well-attended press conference, during which Rambam played segments of the interviews, which he had conducted with several suspects.

During the meeting, the Canadian law enforcement officials said that the evidence provided by Rambam would be considered in efforts to strengthen Ottawa's cases against suspected war criminals it is trying to deport.

At the press conference, Holocaust historian Irving Abella, a senior official of the CJC, said that Rambam's investigation had opened a new page in efforts to prosecute war criminals in Canada, and vowed that the Canadian Jewish Congress would take any and all legal steps to insure that the Canadian government acts on the new findings.



Foreign Minister David Levy unveils a plaque at the new Israeli Embassy in Amman during his visit to Jordan yesterday. (Reuter)

(Continued from Page 1)

significance to Jordan. At the end of a meeting with Levy, Kabariti termed settlements a "direct threat" to the security of Jordan. Muasher explained this by saying that settlement expansion is being perceived by some in Jordan as "directly or indirectly" a vehicle that Israel may want to use in order to push out Palestinians from the territories and thereby revive the idea of "Jordan is Palestine."

It has been several years since Jordanian officials mentioned this term, which they associated with Ariel Sharon.

Levy reacted angrily to the idea that somehow Israel viewed settlement expansion as a way to hurt Jordan. "We did not make peace with Jordan in order to jeopardize Jordan," he said.

Levy was greeted on arrival in Amman by a sub-cabinet level official, and Kabariti, who is both prime minister and foreign minister, declined to appear publicly with Levy at the press conference. Instead, he sent Muasher.

It is believed that Muasher has bruised feelings in dealing with Israel. Last week, just moments after a visiting Muasher handed Netanyahu a letter from Kabariti

LEVY

about how Jordan opposes settlements and views it as a threat to its own existence, the cabinet voted to provide financial incentives, including mortgage subsidies for settlers.

When asked at yesterday's press conference whether Jordan was convinced by Levy's soothing words about Israel's commitment to peace, Muasher tried to be diplomatic. "The only way to restore confidence is to see promises implemented on the ground. We are encouraged by what we heard today, but the whole region is waiting for implementation" of the agreement.

Levy's visit is the first by a Netanyahu government official since Israel opened the Western Wall Tunnel exit and upset Jordan.

Apart from Levy's top level meetings, Foreign Ministry aides held talks with Jordanian ministers of transportation and water. Jordan has agreed to inaugurate flights from Haifa to Amman twice weekly next month, Foreign Ministry officials say.

Another topic for conversation was the Akaba-Eilat airport.

Officials say Netanyahu is expected to decide shortly whether he wants the airport to be shared by both countries or whether it would be handled just by one.

Levy's day in Amman was capped by the dedication of the new Israeli embassy in the Rabiya neighborhood of Amman. It should be noted that the affair was attended by many Jordanians. In his remarks, delivered in Arabic, Ambassador to Amman Shimon Shamir noted the achievements of Israeli-Jordanian ties in the last few years. He highlighted the fact that "a quarter of a million" Israelis have visited Jordan since the signing of the peace treaty.

While trade ties have been slow to develop, Fakhri Alnaser, a Jordanian who heads an upcoming exhibition of Israeli products, said that Jordanians are interested. "We have more than 1,000 favorable replies. Businesspeople are interested in what Israel has to offer in the way of joint ventures and imports."

It was recently reported in the Jordanian press that Israeli night-vision equipment is being sold under Jordanian names at Amman exhibitions.

Arich O'Sullivan adds: Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, meanwhile, has invited Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai to Egypt for an official visit next week. Mordechai's one-day visit, set for Tuesday, will mark the first time since Yitzhak Rabin's visit in 1989 that an Israeli defense minister will be visiting Egypt.

LEVINE

(Continued from Page 1)

real-time intelligence and able to identify the vehicles in which Amitai and senior officers travel.

The mortar attack yesterday began at about 11 a.m., shortly after the convoy carrying Levine, Amitai and senior SLA officers arrived at the Barasheet position in the zone's western sector.

A single mortar round hit the fortified outpost, but did not explode. All the troops manning the position, as well as the visitors, took cover and several more rounds struck.

Amitai, according to the IDF spokesman, suffered scratches, apparently from shrapnel. The IDF spokesman said the mortar firing originated from inside villages in the Barasheet area, north of the zone, which is a flagrant violation of the Grapes of Wrath understandings.

IDF and SLA gunners returned fire. Reports from Lebanon said two houses, one in Barasheet and the other in a village nearby, were hit and badly damaged by shell-fire.

There were also reports that two Lebanese civilians were wounded, and that 12 schoolchildren had narrowly escaped when a shell exploded near a shop in Barasheet village. UNIFIL officers confirmed the damage to the empty houses but not the report of casualties.

Levine's convoy pulled out of the area when the exchanges died down and Amitai was later taken to Haifa's Rambam Hospital for a checkup. He was released and rejoined his unit.

Hizbullah issued a statement claiming responsibility for the mortar attack, saying one of its "fire support squads spotted an IDF unit inside the Barasheet compound and shelled it." According to some reports from Lebanon, a number of vehicles in Levine's convoy were damaged.

The exchanges were followed by another IAF raid on Hizbullah positions in the Jabal Saffi region, north of Soujda in the northeastern sector of the security zone.

Youth stabs father who attacked mother

A 16-year-old Ramat Gan youth stabbed his father several times in the back yesterday when the man tried to attack the boy's mother. "Without my son, I would be dead," the mother said.

The incident occurred when the boy's father came home drunk and started strangling his mother. The

boy tried to separate them, then went into the kitchen and took a knife and stabbed his father so he would release his mother. Neighbors called police, and the father was taken to Ichilov Hospital under police guard, in moderate to serious condition.

tim

SHAKESPEARE

(Continued from Page 1)

Shakespeare's are simply lines attributed to characters in his work. One might as well ban him because he's anti-French. The French are posed in a very stupid light in *Henry V*. There's no evidence Shakespeare hated Jews."

Another lecturer at the Hebrew University, Dr. Elizabeth Freund, said: "This is political correctness taken to extremes."

In *The Merchant of Venice*, Shylock is characterized as a greedy, moneylending Jew. He is mocked as a "misbeliever, cut-throat dog" and is abandoned by daughter Jessica, who marries a Christian, and is forced to convert to Christianity.

Yet many scholars maintain Shakespeare was more sympathetic to Jews than his contemporaries, citing passages such as "Hath not a Jew eyes? Hath not a Jew hands ... If you prick us, do we not bleed? If you tickle us, do we not laugh?"

In the end, the specimen banknotes - unveiled at last weekend's European Union summit in Dublin to replace the national currencies of the 15 EU member states in 2002 - feature a variety of nondescript windows, bridges and gateways, as well as maps of Europe.

Despite strenuous efforts to avoid offending any EU member, several nations have already raised objections. The Finns are fuming that part of their country is missing from the map on the notes, while large parts of Russia - a non EU state - are included. The Spaniards are furious that the Balearic islands are missing. And others have criticized the seven-colored Euro notes as overly "psychedelic." One Euro is worth just over NIS 4.

Israel marches through Georgia

Bench scores 52 points to lift national team to victory

ELI GRONER

MOTTI Daniel and Oded Katash provided the Israeli national team with a spark off the bench, propelling the Israelis to an 86-74 victory over the Georgian national squad. The win means that Israel only needs to win one of its two remaining games in the European Championship Qualifying Tournament in order to reach the European Championship in Spain this summer. The loss eliminated Georgia's chance to qualify.

The depth proved to be the difference. Entering the second half with a tenuous one-point lead, Daniel (22 points), Katash (17) and Ofer Fleisher combined for all of Israel's points during a 17-5 run. The spurt gave Zvi Scherf's squad a comfortable lead that it never relinquished.

An inability to generate a fast pace prevented Israel from jumping out earlier. The Israelis were successful in the first half when

they were able to get the ball inside, usually converting a field goal or reaching the charity stripe. The problem was that Israel only converted 9-16 from the free-throw line in the half.

Gur Shelef was especially productive posting up on the smaller Ravav Chackidza. Shelef also finished off Israel's two nicest offensive sets, both coming in the first half. The first one came on Israel's half. The first one came on Israel's half. The first one came on Israel's half. The first one came on Israel's half.

1:10 mark of the first half when Daniel buried a three-point bomb, that Israel finally took the lead for good.

Doron Sheffer and Amir Muchtari distinguished themselves as well. Sheffer had a solid all-around game, tallying 16 points while making several time-passes and crashing the defensive boards. Muchtari came on when Fleisher got into foul trouble, and provided Israel with a force in the middle to contain Stefania (22 points). Muchtari also scored 10 second-half points helping Israel maintain its solid lead.

Israel's next game is on January 29, when it meets the Bosnian national team in Berlin.

GP	W	L	Pts
Yugoslavia	5	3	75
Bosnia	5	3	73
Israel	5	3	73
Belarus	5	2	72
Georgia	5	2	70
Slovakia	5	1	69



A STAB IN THE BACK - Monica Seles winces in pain after being stabbed at the Hamburg Open in 1993. A court has rejected her claim for damages from the attack. (Reuter)

Seles fails in damages claim for Hamburg stabbing

HAMBURG (Reuter) - Tennis star Monica Seles failed yesterday in a bid to win damages from the German Tennis Federation (DTB) for a knife attack by a spectator which kept her out of the sport for more than two years.

A Hamburg court rejected her claim that the DTB was negligent in security arrangements at the Hamburg Open in April 1993, allowing her attacker to jump from the stands and plunge a kitchen knife into her back.

Lawyers for Seles, who was not in court, had claimed 24.4 million marks (\$15.75 million) for damages and lost earnings from her 27-month layoff after the attack.

"We'll discuss in peace and quiet whether we want to appeal after we receive the judgment in writing," Seles's lawyer Wilhelm Danelzik said.

A spokeswoman for Seles in Los Angeles, Linda Dozoretz, said: "This is obviously another disappointment stemming from the terrible attack on me in 1993."

However she said that since the court's written decision with its reasons would not be released for some weeks, Seles could not comment on specifics.

The court did not publish the full text of its judgment but said in a statement the DTB could not have been expected to provide protection against such a serious attack as nothing similar had happened before.

The 23-year-old American star had charged that the players' bench was closer to the spectators' stand in Hamburg than at other international tournaments, making it easier for Guenter Parche, a lathe operator, to leap at her during a changeover.

But the court said there was no evidence the gap was wider at other events specifically to prevent an attack. It ordered Seles, ranked second in the world, to pay costs.

Danelzik said he was inclined not to accept the verdict but it was up to Seles whether she wanted to pursue the case. He had told her of the ruling by fax but had not yet received a reply.

The DTB welcomed the outcome. "This is a verdict for sport," said Juergen Tietjen, the head of the DTB subsidiary which organized the Hamburg event.

"It ensures direct contact between spectators and players will also be possible at sports events in the future," he added.

"If the verdict had been different we would have had to think about whether we could continue to stage tournaments. Tennis lives from the directness of the game. We don't want tennis in a cage."

Parche was given a two-year suspended sentence in October 1993 for causing grievous bodily harm. He said his fascination with Steffi Graf drove him to wound Seles - then ranked No. 1 in the world - to help the German regain the top spot.

The trial judge ruled he was emotionally retarded and may not have been entirely responsible for his actions.

Seles later appealed for a tougher sentence but failed. She told that hearing in writing that the attack "ruined her life".

Suffering from fear and depression, she postponed her comeback to the international tennis circuit several times and finally returned last year. But she has not taken part in any tournaments in Germany since her return.

Oilers fans: Lonelier than Maytag repairmen

HOUSTON (AP) - Kelly Lipinski doesn't care what people might say. She's one of the chosen few still willing to call themselves a Houston Oilers fan.

"They're still our home team," she insists. "I'm still an Oilers fan, always have been. That's just me, even though I know they're leaving."

From sports call-in radio shows to the Internet, there are jokes being made about people like Lipinski. Obviously she got a free ticket, some might sneaker. Others may speculate on the state of her sanity.

After all, why in the world would anyone subject themselves to watch a team as up-and-down as the Oilers? Why would you put your heart on the line for a love that is about to leave you for Nashville?

Lipinski laughs at the speculation. Without reservation, she admits that she had a (gasp!) event

Angels sign Eddie Murray to one-year contract

ANAHEIM (Reuter) - Eddie Murray, who last season became only the 15th player in history to reach 500 career home runs, signed a one-year contract with the Anaheim Angels on Wednesday.

Murray split the 1996 season between the Cleveland Indians and Baltimore Orioles, hitting his 500th homer for the Orioles on September 6 against Detroit.

He finished the 1996 campaign with 22 homers and 77 RBI in 152 games.

The 40-year-old Murray joined Mickey Vernon as the only switch-hitters with 500 homers and was the first to join the elite 500 club since Mike Schmidt in 1987.

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Discussant: Prof. Irwin Cotler, Faculty of Law, McGill University, Montreal

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Jerusalem derby in spotlight

NATIONAL League action returns this weekend and the capital is agog ahead of the first Jerusalem derby in seven years.

The emotional fixture between Betar and Hapoel Jerusalem in the league had been put on hold in the year when Teddy Stadium opened and Hapoel were relegated to the Second Division. Since then the clubs had met in an official fixture only once, in a State Cup tie.

The first league derby at Teddy Stadium is sure to be as charged as those held at YMCA in past years, with traditional municipal sporting and political rivalries coming to the fore.

This time around the advantage is clearly with the Betar camp, the league leaders who are unbeaten are playing some excellent football and look well on course to capturing another championship. They will be without Roman Harazi and probably without their two influential Hungarians, Stefan Saloi and Irsvan Fishom, who were injured in the Toto Cup fix-

ture with Bnei Yehuda on Wednesday. Hapoel have lost their last five league outings and could not have wished for a tougher match in which to try to right their listing ship, from a high of fifth in the standings in the seventh round they have slipped to tenth, just four points above Beit She'an and Hapoel Tel Aviv in the relegation zone.

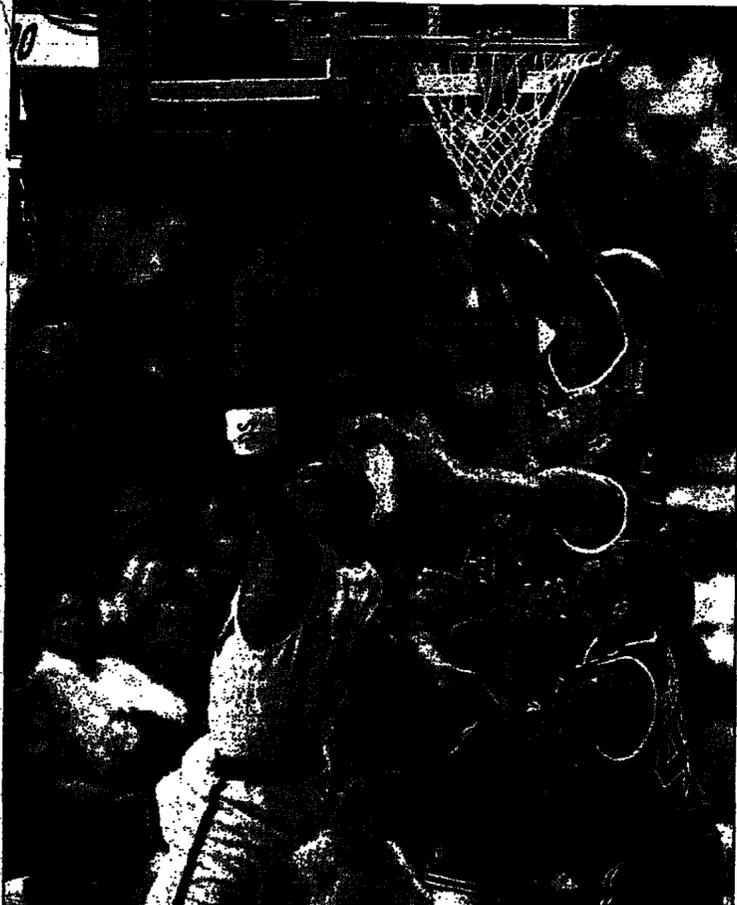
Hapoel will miss tough defender Amir Gola who is suspended, but they will rely heavily on veterans Michel Dayan and Yair Assayag if they want to stop Eli Ohana and his teammates.

Second-placed Hapoel Petah Tikva have another tough test in their efforts to stay in the hunt for the championship when they host disappointing Maccabi Haifa tomorrow afternoon. Elsewhere, Hapoel Beersheba host Maccabi Petah Tikva, while Maccabi Tel Aviv should have an easy time repeating their mid-week Toto Cup win over Ironi Rishon.

ORI LEWIS

This weekend's National League fixtures (all matches kick off tomorrow at 14:30 unless stated): Hapoel Haifa v. Zefirim Holon, Kiryat Eliezer 15:00; Hapoel Beersheba v. Maccabi Petah Tikva, Beersheba; Maccabi Herzliya v. Hapoel Beit She'an, Herzliya; Maccabi Tel Aviv v. Ironi Rishon LeZion, National Stadium, 16:30; Betar Jerusalem v. Hapoel Jerusalem, Teddy Stadium 18:00; Bnei Yehuda v. Hapoel Tel Aviv, Batkva Quarter; Hapoel Tiba v. Hapoel Kfar Sava, Umm el-Fahm today 14:30; Hapoel Petah Tikva v. Maccabi Haifa, Petah Tikva.

Team	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	Diff.	Pts
Betar Jerusalem	12	10	0	2	28	7	21	32
Hapoel Petah Tikva	12	9	2	1	27	14	13	29
Hapoel Beersheba	12	6	0	6	18	9	9	24
Maccabi Tel Aviv	12	6	4	2	21	14	7	22
Maccabi Petah Tikva	12	6	2	4	14	12	2	20
Bnei Yehuda	12	6	2	4	15	16	-1	20
Hapoel Haifa	12	6	1	5	14	15	-1	18
Maccabi Haifa	12	4	4	4	14	15	-1	18
Hapoel Kfar Sava	12	4	1	7	10	11	-1	16
Hapoel Jerusalem	12	4	1	7	10	11	-1	16
Ironi Rishon LeZion	12	4	1	7	13	24	-11	13
Zefirim Holon	12	2	4	6	8	14	-6	10
Maccabi Herzliya	12	2	3	7	8	12	-4	10
Hapoel Tiba	12	3	1	8	10	21	-11	10
Hapoel Beit She'an	12	2	3	7	9	13	-4	9
Hapoel Tel Aviv	12	2	3	7	7	16	-9	9



DENIED - New York's John Starks (left) has his shot deflected by Detroit's Grant Hill (center) as Theo Ratliff (rear) and Stacey Augmon defend during their game on Wednesday in Detroit. (Reuters)

O'Neal scores season-high 41 as Lakers beat Bucks

MILWAUKEE (AP) - Shaquille O'Neal scored a season-high 41 points Wednesday night as the Los Angeles Lakers overcame 42 points by Grant Robinson and beat the Milwaukee Bucks 111-105.

The Lakers, who blew an 18-point fourth-quarter lead in a 129-123 overtime loss to the Chicago Bulls on Tuesday night, pulled away in the final quarter. O'Neal's hook shot from the lane capped a 6-0 run that put the Lakers on top 104-96 with 1:50 left.

Elden Campbell and Eddie Jones each added 19 points and Nick Van Exel had 18 for the Lakers.

Pistons 112, Knicks 78
Lindsay Hunter scored 22 of his season-high 28 points in the first half and host Detroit snuffed the Knicks' seven-game winning streak.

Grant Hill had his first triple-double of the season with 17 points, 11 assists and 10 rebounds for the Pistons, who held a 17-point halftime lead and stretched it to 91-58 entering the fourth quarter.

Joe Dumars had 21 points, including 15 in the third quarter. John Starks led New York with 15 points. Charles Oakley added 14 points on his 33rd birthday.

Cavaliers 99, Nets 81
Terrell Brandon scored 16 of his 28 points in the decisive third quarter as host Cleveland beat injury-depleted New Jersey.

The Nets were without the NBA's top rebounder, Jayson Williams, and 7-foot-6 (225-pounder) center Shawn Bradley. Both were out with knee injuries.

The Cavs won their third straight and the Nets lost their third in a row. Chris Mills had 16 and Bob Sura added 12 for Cleveland. Kenny Kauter led the Nets with 20 points.

Pacers 104, Magic 98
Reggie Miller scored five of his 34 points in the second overtime to cap a strong second-half performance that carried visiting Indiana over Orlando.

Miller was held to four points in the opening half, missing his first seven shots before getting on track. He finished 11-of-28 from the field and had 12 rebounds and seven assists.

Orlando missed 10 of 11 shots in the second overtime and was 2-for-18 overall after regulation. Dennis Scott led the Magic with a season-high 27 points but missed 10 straight shots in

the fourth quarter and in overtime. Nuggets 95, Kings 79
Ervin Johnson scored a season-high 18 points and had a career-high 23 rebounds as host Denver ended a 10-game losing streak.

Antonio McDyeess added 17 points and Mark Jackson had season-high 16 assists for the Nuggets, who had lost four straight to the Kings. The victory helped Denver (6-19) avoid tying the franchise's worst start, 5-80 in 1990-91.

Utah Jazz 103, Timberwolves 96
Joe Smith ignited host Golden State's offense with 30 points and 12 rebounds as the Warriors snapped a four-game losing streak.

After being held to just seven points in the first eight minutes, the Warriors scored 116 over the next 40 minutes, shooting 63 percent (46-for-73) over that span.

Larell Spivey added 25 points and eight assists for the Warriors, who rebounded from a 40-point loss to Seattle the night before.

WEDNESDAY'S NBA RESULTS:
Indiana 92, Orlando 95, OT
Cleveland 99, New Jersey 81
L.A. Lakers 111, Milwaukee 105
Denver 95, Sacramento 79
Phoenix 114, Washington 107
Seattle 106, Portland 102
Golden State 123, Minnesota 96

Warriors 123, Timberwolves 96
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made one of two free throws with 12.1 seconds remaining as visiting Seattle beat Portland.

Sam Perkins scored a season-high 25 for Seattle, shooting 5-for-10 on 3-pointers. Shawn Kemp added 22 and Hawkins 16.

Isiah Rider tied his season-high with 25 points and had a season-high 11 rebounds. Kenny Anderson had 21 points and 11 assists. Wallace scored 19 and Clifford Robinson 18.

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Clark resigns from Forest, Pearce offered caretaker role

LONDON (Reuters) - England defender Stuart Pearce has been offered the role of caretaker manager at struggling Nottingham Forest following the resignation of Frank Clark yesterday.

The English Premier League's bottom club has given Pearce, capped 72 times by his country, 24 hours to decide whether to take the job.

"If he doesn't accept we'll think again," said chairman Irving Korn. "But I think that Stuart, being the type of person he is, will accept the challenge."

The 53-year-old Clark, who took over from Brian Clough in May 1993, had grown frustrated as protracted takeover negotiations prevented the club from signing new players to improve a sequence of poor results.

Forest has not won since the opening day of the season and its 4-2 defeat at Liverpool on Tuesday proved the final straw for Clark, who suspected he would be sacked anyway once the club's takeover is finalized in the New Year.

Rain plays into England's favor

BULAWAYO, Zimbabwe (Reuters) - England had the elements to thank for ending an abbreviated second day of the inaugural Test against Zimbabwe yesterday with their heads still above water.

When skipper Mike Atherton fell lbw to the leg spin of Paul Strang two balls before tea, a nerve-wracking final session seemed in prospect, but rain and bad light prevented any further play after the interval.

England was left on 48 for one in reply to Zimbabwe's first innings total of 376 and, with more rain forecast, a draw looks the most likely outcome unless Strang can produce something special.

Atherton would certainly have settled for a draw at lunch on the second day after a wretched display by his bowlers saw Zimbabwe move from their overnight 256 for six to 337 for seven.

Andy Flower, who went on to score his third Test century, added 79 for the seventh wicket with Strang against an attack which seemed to have forgotten first principles.

Fittingly it was a slow full toss from Chris Silverwood which broke the partnership. Strang had lifted the previous ball over slips for four, but hit the next straight to Tufnell at mid-on having hit seven fours in his innings of 38.

England also needed a modicum of luck for the next breakthrough, which came 45 minutes after lunch. Alan Mullally, who had been the worst of England's attack in the morning, finally found a straight delivery which came off the bottom of Strang's bat and rolled on to the stumps.

The fielding side seized their opportunity with both hands as Tufnell grabbed the last two wickets in his next over.

First to go was Andy Flower, Zimbabwe first innings
G. Flower c Hussain b Silverwood 43
S. Carrile c Crawley b Gough 40
A. Campbell c Silverwood b Croft 34
D. Houston c Stewart b Croft 24
A. Flower c Stewart b Tufnell 112
A. Walter c Crawley b Croft 15
G. Smith c Atherton b Silverwood 56
P. Strang c Tufnell b Silverwood 38
H. Strang b Mullally 19
B. Strang not out 10
H. O'Connell c Knight b Tufnell 0
Extras (lb-w-3 nb-13) 20
Total 376
Fall of wickets: 1-32 130 3-136 4-206 5-255 6-252 7-381 8-372 9-376
Bowling: Mullally 23-48-1 (nb1 w2), Gough 26-45-1 (nb1), Silverwood 16-32-5 (nb2), Croft 44-15-7-3, Tufnell 26.5-4-7-2 (nb2).

Manchester United, Chelsea seek to reverse their fortunes

LONDON (AP) - After importing big-name stars such as Jordi Cruyff, Karel Poborsky, Gianluca Vialli and Gianfranco Zola, Manchester United and Chelsea were expected to be challenging home-grown players such as Mark Hughes and Dennis Wise and he has always sent out a high-quality, attack-minded team.

It hasn't worked. Even the fact that several players were missing in that loss to Sunderland couldn't excuse the team's shortcoming.

Chelsea players, when continually under pressure from opponents who are quickly into the tackle, just can't put their flowing, passing game together. When the other team has the ball, Chelsea doesn't have the players to get it back.

It do not know what the problem is at the moment, but I'm sure that these things go away," Gullit said as the Sun's loss.

"This is the way things seem to have been going for the past five games."

"We go into the dressing room and say we have to be solid. Then we give goals away and that makes it a lost game. They call it bad luck but I hope we get rid of it pretty soon."

Chelsea hopes the bad luck will go away when it hosts another sliding team Saturday. West Ham has not only slipped to fifth from last in the standings but also

suffered the humiliation of losing 2-1 at division two Stockport County Wednesday in the fourth round of the League Cup.

Manchester United aims to put its league season back on track Saturday by scoring a home victory over mid-standings Sunderland, while Arsenal bids to regain top spot by winning at last place Nottingham Forest, whose manager, Frank Clark, quit Thursday.

Leader Liverpool is not in action until Monday, when it visits another title contender Newcastle and third place Wimbledon goes to fifth place Aston Villa Sunday.

Middlesbrough, which has not won in the league for 12 games, will slip into the bottom four if it loses at Blackburn tomorrow.

Manager Bryan Robson hopes that Brazilian star Juninho, who has been sidelined for three games with an ankle injury, soon be back to help countryman Emerson and Italian striker Fabrizio Ravanello produce a 'Boro turnaround.

In other games tomorrow, Leeds visits Everton, which has climbed steadily to seventh, next-to-last Coventry travels to neighbor Leicester. Derby goes to Southampton and Tottenham hosts Sheffield Wednesday.

Division one leader Bolton may not be at the top by the time it vis-

who had gritted it out for 313 deliveries before gloving an attempted sweep by Alec Stewart.

Flower hit 10 boundaries and ensured Zimbabwe would post a competitive total, despite last man Henry Oll Knott edging a catch straight to Nick Knight at silly point four balls later.

Knight was in fluent form in England's reply, hitting three raising boundaries off the Zimbabwe pace attack. But it was the introduction of Strang in the 12th over which confounded the tourists.

In his second over the little leg-spinner trapped Atherton, on 16, on the back foot and slid one past the England skipper's defences for the plummest of lbw's.

Strang's ability to exploit a wearing pitch is the key to the last three days, but the weather may yet prove to be England's strongest ally.

England first innings
N. Knight not out 29
M. Atherton lbw b P. Strang 16
Extras (nb-3) 16
Total (for one wicket) 48
Fall of wickets: 1-48
Bowling: P. Strang 16-32-5 (nb2), J. G. Flower 16-32-5 (nb2), S. Carrile 16-32-5 (nb2), A. Campbell 16-32-5 (nb2), D. Houston 16-32-5 (nb2), A. Walter 16-32-5 (nb2), G. Smith 16-32-5 (nb2), P. Strang 16-32-5 (nb2).

WEDNESDAY'S NHL RESULTS:
Buffalo 5, Tampa Bay 3
N.Y. Rangers 4, Los Angeles 0
Dallas 3, Chicago 2, OT
Detroit 3, Calgary 3, OT
Colorado 4, Edmonton 4, tie
New Jersey 2, Vancouver 1

Liverpool GP W D L GF GA Pts
Arsenal 17 10 4 3 35 17 37
Wimbledon 17 10 4 3 30 16 34
Newcastle 17 9 3 5 27 19 30
Aston Villa 17 9 3 5 22 15 30
Man. Utd 17 7 7 3 32 25 28
Everton 17 7 6 4 28 20 27
Chelsea 17 7 6 4 28 25 27
Sheff. Wed. 17 6 7 4 18 25 25
Tottenham 17 7 3 7 17 24 24
Derby 17 6 7 4 19 22 22
Leicester 17 6 7 4 18 25 22
Leeds 17 6 3 8 15 20 21
Sunderland 17 5 5 7 17 21 20
West Ham 17 4 6 7 15 22 18
Middlesbrough 17 4 6 7 16 22 18
Blackburn 17 4 7 6 16 22 13
Southampton 17 3 4 10 24 32 13
Coventry 17 2 7 8 12 24 13
Notts Forest 17 1 7 9 14 29 10

Newcastle plans flotation on London market and new stadium

LONDON (Reuters) - English Premier League soccer club Newcastle United unveiled plans for a new stadium yesterday and confirmed it would float on the London stock market early next year.

Newcastle said the club was seeking planning permission for a new stadium with an initial capacity of 55,000 in the north-eastern city.

The stadium, costing £65 million, would be built on parkland just to the north of the existing St James' Park. Newcastle intends to turn St James' Park into an indoor leisure and sports center.

The club continued it would seek a listing for their shares on the London Stock Exchange next spring. "We intend to seek a stock market listing to assist in the financing of the next phase of the company's growth," said joint chief executive Mark Corbridge. Newcastle will release further details of their listing plans in mid-January.

since their flotation five years ago and are seen as a model example of how to combine finance and footballing success.

Newcastle has developed into one of English soccer's most attractive sides under manager Kevin Keegan.

The wealth of property developer chairman Sir John Hall has helped bring a host of top players to the club, including England captain Alan Shearer, who returned to his home town this year in a world record £15 million deal.

Newcastle has outgrown the 36,000-capacity St James' Park and says a new stadium is vital if they are to meet the demand for tickets.

But its plan has met opposition from environmentalists battling to protect the city's ancient wood.

Newcastle said their new stadium and St James' Park development would form part of a larger and improved park.

The plans we have developed will provide a world class stadium capable of meeting the demand for tickets whilst at the same time providing an enhanced and extended urban park for the benefit of the local community," said Newcastle director Russell Jones.

Sakic's assists lift Avalanche to tie with Oilers

EDMONTON (AP) - Joe Sakic set up all four Colorado scores, including the tying goal by Valeri Kamensky midway through the third period, and the Avalanche tied the Edmonton Oilers 4-4 Wednesday night.

Kamensky scored twice. His 13th goal of the season at 8:10 of the final period made it 4-4.

Jason Arnott nearly gave Edmonton its first overtime win of the season but his quick wrist bounced off the goal post.

Andre Kovalev scored twice for the Oilers. His 15th goal of the season and 100th in the NHL came with one second left on a power play, putting Edmonton ahead 4-3 at 4:51 of the third period.

Stars 3, Blackhawks 2
Mike Modano scored 27 seconds into overtime as the visiting Dallas rallied from a two-goal deficit to defeat Chicago.

Defensemen Keith Carney misplayed the puck at center ice, and Modano and Greg Adams went into the Chicago zone on a 2-on-1 break against defenseman Chris Chelios.

five games (3-0-2). They also haven't lost in five road games (4-0-1).
Rangers 4, Kings 0
Goalender Mike Richter extended his unbeaten streak to nine games and the New York Rangers continued their recent surge with a victory over the Los Angeles Kings.

Richter made 37 saves for his second shutout of the season and 16th of his career. He improved his record to 8-0-1 in the last nine games.

Wayne Gretzky set up goals by Luc Robitaille and Brian Leach in the third period and assisted Robitaille again in the third as the Rangers extended their season-best stretch to 9-1-1.

Mark Messier scored a shorthanded goal in the second period for the Rangers, who beat the Kings for the seventh straight time at Madison Square Garden.

Sabres 5, Lightning 3
Derek Plante scored two goals and host Buffalo beat Tampa Bay, ending the Lightning's five-game unbeaten streak.

Leading 4-3, the Sabres got an empty-net goal with 55 seconds left when Matthew Barnaby scored after a pass by goaltender Dominik Hasek.

Plante's second goal, a 40-foot (12-meter) slapshot from the right faceoff circle 1:38 into the third period, gave Buffalo a 4-2 lead. It was his team-leading 14th goal of the season.

The Canucks set a team record by managing just eight shots on goal in the game. Their previous low mark was 12.

The teams were scoreless after the first period and tied 1-1 after the second.

Flames 3, Red Wings 3
Defenseman Todd Simpson's first NHL goal helped the host Calgary tie the Detroit.

After Theoren Fleury drew three

Detroit players behind the net, Simpson grabbed the loose puck and circled in front and scored at 8:25 of the third period.

EASTERN CONFERENCE										
Team	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA	Home	Away	Diff.	DV
Atlanta	18	10	7	43	98	87	10-2-4	8-4-3	5-4-3	
Florida	18	12	2	40	88	84	8-5-1	10-5-2	8-7-1	
Philadelphia	18	11	1	38	85	72	8-5-0	10-6-0	8-5-0	
New Jersey	16	14	5	37	121	95	8-7-2	7-7-3	1-4-4	
N.Y. Rangers	11	12	8	30	85	84	6-2-2	3-8-8	7-4-2	
N.Y. Islanders	13	17	2	28	85	88	8-7-1	7-10-1	9-6-0	
Washington	11	16	3	25	88	94	5-3-3	8-9-0	4-7-0	
Tampa Bay	15	10	6	36	87	87	10-5-1	5-5-5	5-2-3	
Washington	16	14	2	34	84	81	8-5-1	8-9-1	7-8-0	
Pittsburgh	14	15	3	31	112	111	8-3-2	6-12-1	6-5-2	
Montreal	12	16	5	29	108	116	6-3-2	4-10-3	1-5-2	
Boston	11	15	5	27	87	111	5-11-4	6-4-9		

